

U.S. House rejects homophobia
Hefley amendment to overturn
executive order goes down to defeat.
page 19

Banner days
More on the just-completed
Gay Games from Amsterdam.
page 22 - 23



Perversely pretty
Photographer Pierre
Molinier in Santa Monica.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 33 • 13 August 1998

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 27 years

No obits

by Timothy Rodrigues

Readers of the *Bay Area Reporter* who regularly scan the obituary page for familiar faces — friends, ex-lovers, former tricks, that guy you used to see at the gym who has not been around for a while — will have to forgo that ritual this week. No obituaries were filed with the paper for this issue, a first since the AIDS epidemic exploded in San Francisco's gay community.

That doesn't mean that there were no AIDS deaths in the past week; next week's issue may have more obits than usual. Nevertheless, after more than 17 years of struggle and death, and some weeks with as many as 31 obituaries printed in the *B.A.R.*, it seems a new reality may be taking hold, and the community may be on the verge of a new era of the epidemic. Perhaps.

"It is certainly refreshing, and I think we deserve a break like that. By the same token, it is hard to imagine that it will last forever," Dana Van Gorder, director of gay and lesbian

health for the Department of Public Health (DPH), told the *B.A.R.* "We all deserve a little bit of respite," he continued.

Derek Gordon, director of communications for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), who has been living with HIV for many years, talked about scanning the obituary page, looking to see who had died, and feeling "it was just a matter of time before I would see my own face."

"I remember my grandfather said he knew he was getting near death because he used to scan the obits," he told the *B.A.R.* "I used to think how tragic because I was doing the same thing at 30."

Gordon cautioned that the epidemic is not over, but acknowledged that the decrease in the number of obituaries reflects a parallel trend in his personal experience. He said he no longer feels the same sense of "doom and despair," and added, "I don't have any [recent] obits to personally tell."

Dick Pabich, AIDS policy advisor to Mayor Willie Brown, and someone who has lived with AIDS for many years, has had the opposite personal experience. He has recently had two close friends die of AIDS, something he says he has not

had to deal with for some time.

"I have frankly had a concern that we are seeing a shift in the opposite direction," he said, mentioning an increase in the number of people he knows who have died, gotten infected by HIV, or been diagnosed.

While acknowledging that the lack of obituaries is symbolically very important, Pabich warned that it is important not to overstate the situation and said there should be no lessening of efforts to fight the epidemic.

If current estimates are correct, 10 people may have been infected by HIV in the last week, and it is estimated that 15,000 people living in San Francisco are HIV-positive.

Although scientists, reporters, and government officials have commented that AIDS deaths have been declining since the introduction of new anti-HIV drug regimens, several of those interviewed mentioned that many people cannot obtain, choose not to take, or do not benefit from currently available treatment options. Also, the incidence of HIV/AIDS is increasing among youth, people of color, women, and the het-

page 17 ►

First-time ladies, having a ball

Before their "creators" remade them into divine images at the 25th annual Closet Ball on Saturday, August 8, these buxom babes were merely three of 15 macho guys at the event who had never before worn bras or any other feminine attire. The winner of the makeover contest was Jeffrey Watts (center), flanked by 1st runner-up Bob Bronson (left) and 2nd runner-up Tommy Williams. For more on the ball, see Mister Marcus's column on page 44.



Anti-CUAV case goes to court

by Dennis Conkin

A gay San Francisco man says that Community United Against Violence (CUAV) has made an awful mistake — and that he's not the batterer but the true victim in a tangled local gay domestic violence case.

Louis Nevaer says that a CUAV domestic violence advocate, who provided victim-of-violence services to his former partner, lied to a Family Court Commissioner when she accused Nevaer of assaulting her client after a stay-away order had been issued in the case. His small claims lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court over CUAV's alleged "slander and libel" in connection with the case began Tuesday, August 11.

A family court commissioner granted a permanent restraining order against Nevaer last April, and a June attempt by Nevaer to have it thrown out was dismissed without prejudice on procedural grounds. Nevaer will appeal that dismissal.

Superior Court Judge Donna Hitchens, who supervises the Unified Family Court, also told Nevaer that her review of the case indicated that the family court commissioner had ruled legally and appropriately in the case, based on the facts as presented.

"In my opinion, Commissioner [Marjorie] Slabach was very patient in allowing you to state your position," said Hitchens, an openly lesbian longtime judge.

Nevaer's former partner Robert Brenner declined to talk with the *Bay Area Reporter* about the case.

However, in a Family Court affidavit, Brenner said he was assaulted so badly by Nevaer without provocation March 16, 1997

that he suffered a broken hand, bite wounds, and other injuries.

Nevaer told the *B.A.R.* that he was the one who was seriously injured by glass shards from a sliding door during the incident — in which he said Brenner "tried to murder me."

"I was taken by ambulance to San Francisco General [Hospital]. I thought that night he was going to kill me," Nevaer said.

Nevaer said the incident was precipitated by Brenner's alleged methamphetamine drug use during a sadomasochistic sexual scene, and that Brenner attacked him after he refused to participate in a sexual en-

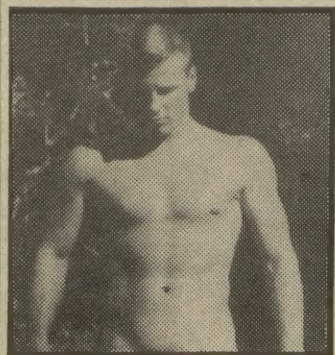
page 17 ►

INSIDE

ACT UP	21
BAR Talk	46
Classifieds	24
GLAAD	11
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	44
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out & About	42
Out There	30
Past Out	12
Personals	48
Sapphistication	10
Sports Complex	22

FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

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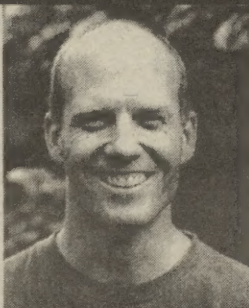
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AEF defrauded

Steps taken to prevent future forgeries

by Cynthia Laird

A recent incident of alleged forgery and fraud has prompted the AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) to go with a new check software program that should preclude anyone from depositing altered AEF checks in the future.

Tony Cunningham, accounting manager at AEF, told the *Bay Area Reporter* Wednesday, August 5 that although the latest alleged incident wasn't for a large dollar amount — \$325 — it nevertheless meant the organization had to repeat the time-consuming and expensive process of setting up a new account with the bank and having new checks printed.

Cunningham emphasized that the agency has not lost money, and that there have been three attempts to cash a forged or otherwise altered checks.

The revelation by AEF is similar to a larger alleged fraud case

that happened to the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee, Inc., which last month discovered nearly \$29,000 had been stolen using forged checks. The police are continuing their investigation. (See related story, this page.)

Under the AEF's new program through Wells Fargo Bank, when an AEF check is deposited or cashed, each piece of data has to appear unaltered or it will be rejected by the bank. Called a wholesale demand deposit account (WDDA), it also allows Cunningham to download a report each day to track the hundreds of checks AEF writes each month. Cunningham declined to be more specific in describing the program.

The new program was not cheap, and AEF prides itself on maintaining low overhead costs so that most of the agency's revenue goes to help pay for emergency financial assistance for

clients living with HIV/AIDS. It has, for example, no paid executive director. Cunningham, however, said spending the more than \$400 in start-up fees was worth it.

"We have two check runs a week," said Cunningham. "Having to get checks reprinted increased employees' time and presented an efficiency problem. It was much more expensive, but it's cheaper to pay [start up costs] than to keep closing accounts."

Cunningham said that information regarding last month's forgery attempt has been reported to San Francisco police, and evidence has been turned over. Last month a police investigator told the *B.A.R.* that with today's reliance on computers for all aspects of running a business, including issuing checks, the problem of forged checks is escalating. Cunningham agreed with that assessment, and noted that anyone can purchase check stock computer checks and attempt to produce counterfeit documents. ▼

Bank reimburses Pride Committee in check forgery case

by Cynthia Laird

Teddy Witherington, executive director of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee, Inc., announced Thursday, August 6, that Wells Fargo Bank has reimbursed the full \$28,928.82 charged to the account through an alleged counterfeit check scheme this year.

According to Witherington, there was a total of nine attempts to cash or deposit counterfeit checks, which were discovered immediately by Pride Committee officials when the bank statement arrived and the different colored checks were spotted. Police and bank officials are still investigating the case.

Of the nine attempts, five were "successful," Witherington said, accounting for the \$28,928.82 being taken out of the committee's bank account. Two of the checks were rejected by the bank

before being deposited, and there were two attempts to cash or deposit checks after the fake ones were discovered.

Brook Oliver, an attorney representing the Pride Committee, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that investigators have informed the committee that it is only one of many victims of a highly organized and very large counterfeit ring now being tracked by the bank and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Witherington insisted that the amount in question was not \$38,000 as was reported in the August 4 edition of *The Independent*, a local daily newspaper. That story alluded to a confidential e-mail message from treasurer Leigh Christopher to Witherington, stating that seven fraudulent checks were drawn on the committee's account totaling \$38,000. Witherington told the *B.A.R.* he doesn't know how the newspaper obtained the e-mail message and said

the \$38,000 figure is not correct.

A police investigator told the *B.A.R.* last month that the check scam is not surprising in this age of using computers for virtually every aspect of business and that anyone can order check stock paper for computer checks. Once the account number and other information falls into the hands of perpetrators, it's fairly easy to make the fake checks.

In another matter, Witherington said that board nominations will take place at the committee's regular meeting this Sunday, August 16. Nominations close on Sunday, September 13. ▼

The Pride Committee's membership meeting is Sunday, August 16 at 7:30 p.m. at 1390 Market Street, Suite 1225. (Fox Plaza office building). For information or to inquire about nominations to the board, call (415) 864-3733.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Park police police parkers

Gay men detained apparently over nothing

by Cynthia Laird

Two gay men have filed a complaint with the U.S. Park Police, alleging they were unnecessarily questioned and harassed by officers as they sat in their car in the San Francisco Presidio Saturday, August 1. The incident is being investigated by officials from the U.S. Park Police, but the men involved say that at a minimum, more sensitivity training is needed for the officers.

One of the more bizarre aspects of the alleged incident is that one of the officers, Tyrone Williams, questioned East Bay resident Jeffrey Rehg extensively about what drugs he's taking after Rehg hesitantly admitted he takes medication for AIDS. Williams asked Rehg the question "out of the blue," said Rehg's boyfriend Robert Driscoll, who was sitting in the car's passenger seat.

"Williams asked how often Mr. Rehg takes his medication. Mr. Rehg replied that this matter was something that he talks only to his physician about," stated Driscoll. "We feel that this whole line of questioning was completely and totally inappropriate and exhibited harassment."

Williams then asked Rehg to pull up the sleeves of his shirt, apparently to look for needle marks, Rehg told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Driscoll said his friend was near tears as Williams insisted Rehg show his arms.

"The whole interrogation seemed so out of line to me," Rehg said Tuesday, August 11, adding that Williams seemed determined to "find something" on the men.

"Officer Williams asked Mr. Rehg if he was capable of driving while taking these medications," Driscoll stated. "Oddly, the officers had not even seen Mr. Rehg driving at all. Mr. Rehg responded that his physician had never advised against driving. Officer Williams then said that Mr. Rehg should consider not driving while taking his medications. This, of course, was completely out of line on the part of Officer Williams, who we assume is not a physician, and even if he were, he had no knowledge of Mr. Rehg's particular medical history or what spe-



Beach-goers Robert Driscoll and Jeffrey Rehg

cific medications he was taking."

In his letter to Park Police Sergeant Lou Mugg, Driscoll said that he and Rehg were merely sitting in the car after walking up from the beach around 6 p.m., when a patrol car pulled up behind them. Two officers, identified as Williams and Derek Amalbert, approached on either side of the car and then Williams proceeded to extensively question the two men as to what their activity was, whether they had drugs in the vehicle, and the medication interrogation.

"We were lingering in his car while snacking and discussing our plans for the rest of the day," said Driscoll.

After asking for identification from Rehg and Driscoll, one of the officers said he had "reason to suspect suspicious activity on our part," wrote Driscoll. "We asked what he meant by that. He said that he saw us put something down on the floor of the car as the police car neared us. What we had put down on the floor was an empty bag of trail mix."

Driscoll, owner of Venture Out, a gay and lesbian adventure and tour company, said he's been coming to the area west of the Golden Gate Bridge for many years and has never been hassled as he and Rehg were. "I consider that area to be my refuge in the city," Driscoll said. "I've been going there over 10 years and I'm there often once a week and I've never been hassled. It felt like an intrusion and very uncomfortable.

"I recognize the need and value of having a police force in federal parks, but I found myself on the line between wanting to be cooperative and wanting to protest," Driscoll told the *B.A.R.*

Rehg and Driscoll said that Williams was the primary officer involved and did the majority of questioning during the 20-minute detention. He is also the more experienced of the two officers, the *B.A.R.* learned. Reached Tuesday, August 11, Mugg said only that the matter is being investigated. He refused to answer any questions, and would not say when the investigation might be completed.

"We both felt personally violated and that Officer Williams outstepped the parameters of his duty. It was obvious he was operating on assumptions and suspicions," wrote Driscoll.

Rehg said his only response at this point is he feels more sensitivity training is needed for members of the U.S. Park Police force. "From the get-go, it felt like he was out to get something. I was caught completely off guard," Rehg said.

The incident has left both men wondering how far police officers can go when there is no evidence of "suspicious activity." Rehg wonders if he had to step out of the car and, especially, if he had to roll up his sleeves after Williams insisted he do so. "Or, do I have to be submissive?" Rehg asked. "At what point are you able to tell a law enforcement officer enough is enough?" ▼

Gay pol baring sought

by Timothy Rodrigues

Following up on books that examine women and minorities in American politics and celebrity sex lives, gay San Francisco author Mart Martin is asking for help from the community as he looks at international politics.

Martin wrote *The Almanac of Women and Minorities in American Politics*, to be published in January 1999, as a reference book of women; ethnic minorities; and gays, lesbians, and bisexuals who hold elected office or positions in the upper judiciary in the United States.

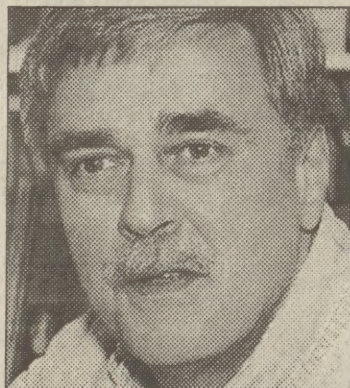
He is now seeking assistance on a companion volume titled *The Almanac of Women and Minorities in International Politics*.

Martin has previously written

a book on cinema, and one examining the sex lives of 201 famous women, *Did She or Didn't She?* His switch to politics was not prompted by activism, he said, but simply because he wanted to try something new. "I am not a political animal in the sense that I am not out and involved," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

When asked what he found most surprising about his current research, Martin said, "The thing that absolutely stunned me the most was that someone from Pakistan was elected to the parliament of Norway." He remarked that the situation likely offers a contrast to people's perception of the country.

Martin would like to hear from individuals who have information on gays or lesbians who have been



Author Mart Martin

members of parliaments, cabinets, or the upper judiciary, or who know of people who might have such information. ▼

Readers can send any relevant information to Mart Martin via email at: jhm@sirius.com.

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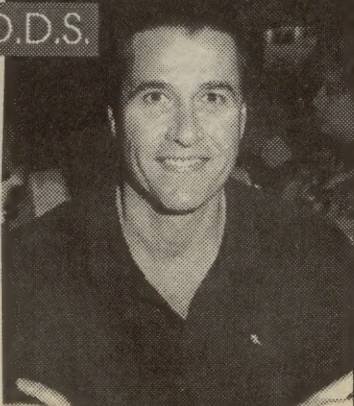
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Supes extend domestic partners benefits to cover businesses

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco's laws regarding domestic partners took another first step Monday, August 10 when the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an ordinance that will require businesses to offer to legally registered domestic partners any special discounts, rates, price breaks, or other financial advantages that they offer to customers' spouses. Mayor Willie Brown has indicated he will sign the measure into law.

Supervisor Mark Leno, who authored the amendment to the city's police code, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he hasn't heard from anybody who objects to the change. The city also has a landmark ordinance that requires

companies doing business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if those benefits are offered to spouses.

"I'm pleased the business community recognizes it for what it is, good for business, and an issue of fairness," said Leno.

Some businesses already offer such discounts. Companies such as health clubs, car rental firms, and auto and health insurers would be affected by Leno's legislation, which applies to gay or straight domestic partners; there are currently over 4,000 domestic partners registered with the city. The ordinance does not require businesses that do not offer special advantages to institute any specific scheme or policy.

In June, when Leno unveiled his proposal, he said, "This is a

logical progression in protecting the civil rights of persons who provide valuable commerce to our city. It demonstrates that we value customers who have domestic partners just as much as those that have spouses."

Article 33, section 3305 of the police code already bans discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or place of birth in the goods and services, facilities and privileges, or other advantages a business provides.

Leno, who became a supervisor in April, said he hopes all his future legislation is approved as easily as this amendment. There was no controversy surrounding the proposal, and little discussion at the board meetings where the votes were cast. ▼

Ammiano, Teng clear the air over radio comment

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Mabel Teng cleared up the misunderstanding regarding Teng's referring to Ammiano as "that homosexual supervisor" on a Chinese language radio program last month. Also, Teng told the *Bay Area Reporter* Thursday, August 6 she hopes to work with the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) so that she can meet with members of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club.

In other developments, the GAPA completed its investigation of the incident and concluded after a word-by-word translation of the broadcast that Teng actually said "the gay supervisor," when she appeared on a weekly radio show July 28 to discuss the city budget. Teng was discussing how Ammiano and Supervisor Leland Yee were the only board members to oppose the budget.

In a letter to the *B.A.R.* written Friday, August 7, Ammiano stated that when he and Teng talked, "We both acknowledged that culture and social dynamics can be

tricky and a two way street. I am pleased to report that Supervisor Teng and I have cleared up any misunderstandings and are communicating with all the clubs involved. We look forward to a positive campaign."

Ammiano and Teng both face voters November 3 and are believed by many observers to be in a tight race for the board presidency. Three other seats are also on the ballot.

In an interview last week, Teng maintained that the Milk Club overreacted and said that it is customary in Chinese media to use a prefix for each supervisor. "I have always been referred [to] as [the] Chinese supervisor," said Teng. "It's just standard practice. I don't know what this big fuss is. If you talk to any Chinese gay or lesbian person in the last 20 years, I've consistently been out there championing for lesbian and gay rights."

The Milk Club, which was critical of Teng's original comment on the radio program, is still waiting for a meeting with Teng, and members continue to wonder why sexual orientation is a necessary reference. "Homosexuality is not necessary to the budget process.

We have yet to hear such reference to Barbara Kaufman as the heterosexual supervisor," wrote club President Criss Romero.

In contrast to the Milk Club, the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club maintained that the incident was blown out of proportion by the Milk Club.

GAPA member Perry Chen released conclusions of the group's investigation into the matter; several points were looked at, including the word-by-word translation, tone, translation nuances, Cantonese radio practice, and alternatives. "According to Chinese Radio 1400 AM [the station on which Teng appeared], it is a common practice of its interviewees to use descriptive qualifiers for the Cantonese radio audience," the GAPA report stated.

Regarding the tone of the broadcast, GAPA stated, "All sources consulted agreed that the tone of the segment in question was at best, respectful, and at worst, neutral." The organization also stated that, "it is inappropriate to judge a Cantonese interview on Chinese radio as if the interview was conducted in American English on mainstream English radio." ▼

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Dr. Kelly is the former manager of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at University of California, San Diego.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Project Open Hand awarded some Salvation Army contracts

by Cynthia Laird

Project Open Hand received \$1 million in contracts relinquished by the Salvation Army and will provide meals to seniors, agency officials announced Thursday, August 6. Expected to begin September 1, the contracts were awarded to Project Open Hand by the San Francisco Commission on Aging to fund preparation and delivery of the daily lunches for 3,500 seniors annually at 17 neighborhood sites.

The Salvation Army had been providing the service, but gave up the contracts in June because the organization did not want to comply with San Francisco's equal benefits law. Under the ordinance, entities that do business with the city must provide benefits to domestic partners of employees if the benefits are offered to spouses. The Salvation Army gave city officials until September 1 to find new providers, and services were not interrupted for the thousands of people who utilized programs formerly operated by the Salvation Army.

"We are happy to work in partnership with the city and county of San Francisco in providing nutritious food for seniors," said Tom Nolan, executive director of Project Open Hand. "We recently moved into this wonderful new kitchen, and we certainly have the capacity to feed more people. We've considered these contracts very carefully, and we are confident that we can take on his project while continuing to prepare and deliver healthy, delicious meals to people living with AIDS every day. Our expertise is in providing nutritious food to those who need it."

This is by no means the first time Project Open Hand has risen to the challenge, said Nolan. After the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, the agency responded by operating their kitchen around the clock for a week to make thousands of meals for victims, rescuers, and shelter staff.

The contracts awarded to Project Open Hand are to provide congregate meals for seniors at current sites located in neighbor-



Cynthia Laird

hoods throughout the city, including the Tenderloin, Upper Market and Mission, South of Market, Bayview-Hunters Point, Ingleside, Sunnydale, Noe Valley, Potrero Hill, North Beach, the Sunset, and Visitacion Valley. The contracts also include a handful of home-delivered meals to seniors who reside in the South of Market and Upper Market and Mission areas.

Nolan said Project Open Hand is in full compliance with the city's Chapter 12B nondiscrimination requirements, and offers domestic partner benefits to its employees. Additional Salvation Army contracts were awarded to Self-Help for the Elderly and Western Addition Senior Citizens' Services.

Since its inception in 1985, Project Open Hand has served over 4.5 million meals and 400,000 bags of groceries. Last year the organization provided nutrition services to over 5,000 men, women, and children living with AIDS in San Francisco and Alameda counties. The agency is the country's first grassroots response to the nutritional needs of people living with AIDS and continues to be a model for similar operations around the world. ▼

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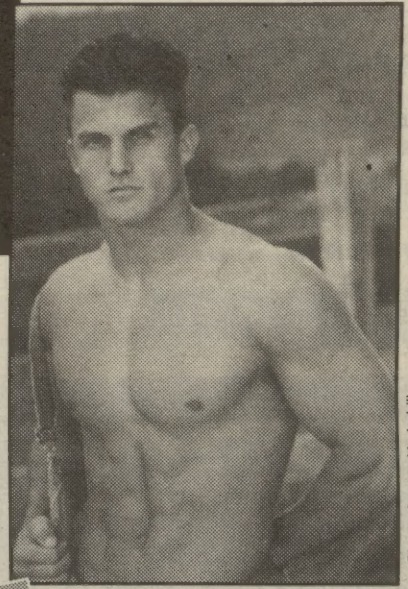


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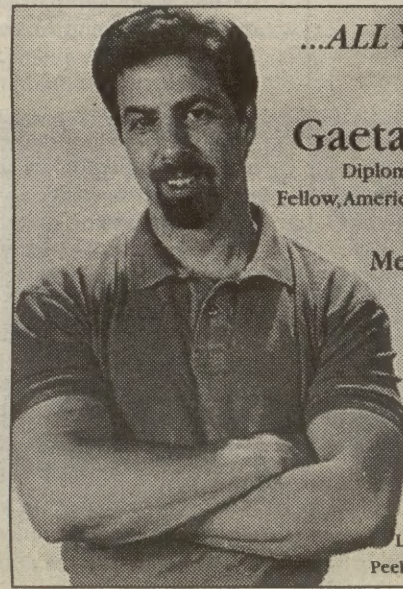
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Mark Allen ThompsonNEWS EDITOR
Mike SalinasARTS EDITOR
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Wayne FridayASSISTANT EDITORS
Cynthia Laird
Mark Mardon
Timothy Rodrigues

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tavo Amador • Heidi Beeler • David Bianco
Erin Blackwell • John Blanco • Dan Blue
Victoria A. Brownworth • Philip Campbell
M.R. Covino • Jameson Currier • Richard Dodds
Nisa Donnelly • Beth Elliott • Liz Highleyman
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Mary Richards • Adrian Roberts • Bob Roehr
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Paul Thomason • Stephanie von Buchau
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Kurt ThomasPRODUCTION ASSISTANT
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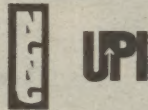
PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jane Philomen Cleland
Darlene/PhotoGraphics
Marc Geller
Rick Gerharter

ILLUSTRATORS & CARTOONISTS

Jerry Business
Ben Carlson
Fran FrischGENERAL MANAGER
Michael M. YamashitaADVERTISING MANAGER
David McBrayerBARTALK PERSONALS
Clifford WebbDISTRIBUTION
Mark EneaADVERTISING SALES
Matt LewisNATIONAL SALES
REPRESENTATIVE
Rivendell MarketingLEGAL COUNSEL
Thomas E. Horn, Esq.

MEMBER

National Gay Newspaper Guild
United Press InternationalBay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230

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Death takes a holiday

The buzz started around the B.A.R. office last Friday afternoon. By the end of the day, no one had given us any obituaries to print, and after 18 years of living through an epidemic that has killed off most of our friends, that lack of any death notices was unusual. It wasn't unprecedented, but it was encouraging: some of us can still vividly remember the week a decade ago when 27 obituaries, plus memorial advertisements for four other men who died of AIDS, filled up more than three pages. We wondered, as we considered the possibility that this could be our first obit-free issue in years, could it really be that the load of obits could drop from 31 to zero?

We tried not to get too excited about it too soon. Partly because it's kind of like the common baseball superstition — when it looks as if a team may wind up with a coveted no-hitter, players don't mention that possibility for fear of jinxing their luck — and also because of three other weeks in the last 18 months when we hadn't gotten any obits by Friday and then saw our hopes dashed when some death notices arrived over the weekend or on Monday. So we waited patiently, quietly, to see how many this week's mail would bring.

And then there were none.

None. No notices whatsoever that friends, or potential friends we hadn't met, succumbed to AIDS, or to anything else. And, like fans who sat quietly until the no-hitter was clinched with the last pitch, we exploded in joy at the happy culmination. For a while, at least.

For this is not a baseball game, and it is not the end to AIDS. It is only a brief respite, albeit one that we desperately needed, and perhaps the first evidence that we mortal humans can triumph (someday) over a force as terrifying and seemingly relentless as the epidemic.

Which raises the question: if this is the moment we've been craving, is it also the

moment the right wing forces against us have been dreading? People like Pat Robertson and Trent Lott depend upon AIDS to ravage us and keep us from fighting back, so what is good for us is bad for them. Like us, they know the epidemic derailed our community's push for gay rights nearly 20 years ago and forced us to put most of that agenda on hold while we nursed our sick and buried our dead. There's still more nursing and burying ahead of us, of course, but going from 31 obituaries a week to none, perhaps we have also been spared the time and energy we need to fight for our rights again, with all the re-

sources that such a fierce battle demands. We hope so.

And although we fully expect to receive more obits than usual next week, for such is the nature of life and death, we also hope to see a time when issues of the B.A.R. without obituaries are commonplace. For that to happen, people must take care of themselves, avoid infections, and live for tomorrow. (This week's "barebacking" forum may provide readers with the support they need to do just that. Details are on page 14.) Choose life, as the right wing likes to say.

See you around. ▼



Editorial



Ben Carlson



Time to mass debate!

by Daniel Blatt

When the newspaper ads sponsored by a variety of fundamentalist Christian organizations appeared in such national dailies as *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*, some gay people have been talking as if a new dark age is approaching, as if soon, jackbooted right wing thugs will come to our doorsteps, pull us out of our homes, and drag us to centers where we will be shown a "truth" that will free us from our "self-destructive behavior" and liberate us from our "gay lifestyle." I believe these fears are unfounded and see the ads instead as providing an opportunity to improve the debate on homosexuality in American society.

Obviously, I don't agree with what they are saying, but am pleased that the debate on homosexuality appears to have moved away from the political arena — where it does not belong — and into the media — a more appropriate forum to consider the question of homosexuality. Now, that those who claim we can "change" have put forward their views, it becomes incumbent upon us to respond to one ad's invitation "for an honest debate." The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has already taken the first step by producing ads of its own and placing them in major dailies across the country.

But, the debate will require more than newspapers ads. We must rationally and reasonably respond wherever we can to the arguments of those who believe that homosexuality is a sinful choice. We must respond in letters to the editor and op-eds, and, when possible, on radio and television as well. But, wherever we respond, whether in the media or in less public fora, we must avoid name-calling and always focus on telling the truth in a rational and persuasive manner.

As one example, I cite Andrew Sullivan's excellent op-ed on July 26 in *The New York Times*. In his piece, while he questions the effectiveness of "reparative therapy," Sulli-

van agrees that "ex-gays" should "be allowed a forum ... free from abuse, derision, or condescension." He's right. We should not deny them the opportunity to express their views. And we should listen.

After listening, we must respond by talking honestly about our own lives, our beliefs and the choices we have made. One ad asked readers to "reexamine the truth of homosexuality with all the facts in hand, apart from the half-truths and hostile name-calling." By providing more facts, we facilitate that reexamination. In the *Times*, for example, Sullivan provided a number of facts about "reparative therapy."

Thus, with Sullivan's op-ed, as with HRC's ads, the debate has been joined. We must help them continue it. To be sure, that honest debate may force us to face certain facts that we may not wish to consider. For example, some of the "ex-gays" may well be living happy and well-adjusted lives. If that's true, if their choice not to act upon their longings for same-gender intimacy has helped them lead satisfactory lives, then we should appreciate that choice. While we may doubt those who claim to have been "cured" of their same-sex emotion/sexual longings, it is they — not we — who have chosen to base their lives on such claims. We don't have to live their lives.

We must show that while some ex-gays may be at peace with their own choices, an even greater number of gay men and lesbians are content with theirs, leading happy, well-adjusted, and moral lives precisely because we have chosen to accept and act upon our natural longings for same-gender intimacy. If some fundamentalists only see, as the ads report, "great suffering among homosexuals," then obviously they haven't looked long enough at our communities and our households.

Perhaps the ads' sponsors really believe that we're all suffering and cut off from God. Perhaps they really believe that we are

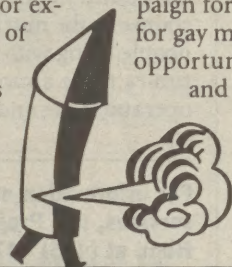
incapable of forming intimate and committed same-sex relationships. In *The New York Times* ad, Anne Paulk claims that "[w]hile I longed for a female life-partner, I knew it just wouldn't work." Well, it might not have worked for her. The existence of countless long-term lesbian couples, however, proves that it has worked for many other women.

By reporting that one fact — that long-term lesbian relationships do work — I have followed the ad's advice. I have begun to tell the truth. Thus, instead of this media campaign foreboding a dark and difficult time for gay men and lesbians, it can become an opportunity to speak honestly about gay and lesbian lives. Longterm, intimate, caring, and compassionate same-sex relationships do exist. Many men and women have found same-sex life partners who have comforted, nourished and sustained them. And many have done so while professing a strong belief in the major tenets of Christianity and Judaism.

Last year, a Christian woman published a book about her marriage to a man who once tried to free himself from his longings for intimacy with men. She entitled it *The Truth Shall Set You Free*. But, the truth that Sally Lowe Whitehead and her first husband discovered was that the only honest life he could lead was as a gay man. And when they accepted this, the truth set them both free.

So, in one aspect at least, I agree with the ad in the July 14 *Washington Post*. It is "a truth issue." We should never be afraid to tell the truth. And we should welcome this latest invitation to do so. Not only will a honest debate help present a more accurate picture of the reality of gay and lesbian lives, but in seeking the truth, we may well learn that the search itself can also set us free. ▼

Daniel Blatt, a writer in Arlington, Virginia, is the author of a novel, *Calypso's Cave*.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Weird science

Robert Knight, director of the Family Research Council, paid for several newspaper ads billing "former gays and lesbians" who were healed of their sexual orientation through the magic of his program. Knight evidently does not understand how a scientific study operates to reveal answers to a research question. Knight's organization, "Standing for Truth" misses it entirely in its gross misrepresentation of scientific fact and rational analysis. Dr. Robert Garofalo, the scientist who conducted the research project, came up with opposite conclusions, based on statistical evidence from his qualitative research study published in the medical journal *Pediatrics* in May 1998. To date, there are no sound scientific inquiries which prove that homosexuality is a disease process that can be "cured" with a good dose of the Bible. In fact, the American Psychological Association removed gayness from its list of disorders two decades ago. What is Knight's real agenda? Without rationality, science, or logic, the gay or lesbian can remain essentially diseased or sick in the mind of Knight and his group. Approval of hatred is often dressed in religious symbols, texts, or bad science to make credible absurd and dangerous notions of supremacy and self-righteousness. Although Knight's message may appear glazed with Christian compassion and concern, its subtext reveals messages of intolerance and bigotry. Is the defense of a flat earth the subject of his next ad?

Damiano Iocovozzi
Martinez, CA

No getting away with murder

[The following was sent to Chief Deputy District Attorney Dale Miller, Martinez]

I was Vitaly Poliakov's best friend. I have been following the case over the year, and have been very pleased with the performance of your office. However, I am writing to you today about the recent "deal" offered to Joshua Puckett, Vitaly's murderer. ["Puckett to get a break?," B.A.R., August 6.]

The past year has been hard on a number of people, including myself. I lost my best friend. I learned that he was brutally murdered, placed in the trunk of his own car, driven 200 miles away, and dumped in a stream. Obviously at the hands of someone who does not value life. What makes this particularly sad, is that Vitaly thought he was with someone who liked him. Apparently, he was not.

Joshua presents himself as a kind, honest, innocent person. This is a wolf in sheep's clothing. How can my conscience be at ease when I hear that Joshua has been offered a minimal sentence? You need to close this case, as I need to bring closure to this part of my life. The sentence should be something that everyone can live with, including Joshua. How are the friends and relatives of Vitaly suppose to go on, knowing justice fell short? I feel guilty that I am not able to be of any more aid to my late friend. The decision to offer a "deal" will be something we will have to live with the rest of our lives. It will sit well with some, but not with me. I invested in a friendship, and I was robbed. Joshua has to pay for his actions.

I urge you not to back down on this case. What kind of message does this send to other would-be teen murderers? Joshua is too old to be slapped on the hand and resumed to society. Let the living victims of this horrible crime rest assured that justice has been served.

David T. Cannon
San Francisco

The old 'gay pervert' theory

I continue to read in disgust the articles about Josh Puckett. Most disturbing is the similarity between this case and a case in Florida about 10 years ago.

This kid was arrested for killing an older man he had been living with for about a month. The kid stabbed the man five times with a butcher knife in the man's apartment. Before his arrest, he went on a spending spree with the victim's money and credit cards. The kid claimed the man was trying to sexually assault him. The kid said he was straight, even though he went to gay bars, had mainly gay friends, and was even sleeping in the same bed with the man. He did date a girl "a few times." The defense used the old "gay pervert seducing an innocent 19-year-old straight kid" theory. He also was very cute, came from a good family, so that stupid jury also felt he couldn't possibly be lying, or gay! Witnesses for the prosecution said the fight was actually about the man's concern over the kid's cocaine problem.

To sum up the outcome, he got manslaughter with only five years probation! If the victims were not gay, I would bet these juries would have a far more harsh view of the murderers! This sickening type of defense using ignorant jurors' homophobia worked well in rural Florida 10 years ago, and apparently still works today in suburban San Francisco.

Alex Zorin
Los Angeles

Weird science, part 2

I have written Dr. Mel White about his article on your op. ed. page ["Ad ventures and ad vantages," August 6]. I agree that we must respond and not react. And I agree that we should not use name-calling. However, I did ask him if he could give me some reference on the "scientific research" he claims "demonstrates clearly that God created us and loves us exactly as we are."

That will really be useful! Does anyone else know where it is?

Dick Hewetson
San Francisco

Anti-gay = anti-Democrat

It's pitiful that when we respond to the ad campaign telling us that we can be "cured," all we seem to do is deny it or insult our adversaries.

With our burgeoning gay political organizations wallowing in money and surplus bureaucrats, the best they seem to come up with is arguments, mostly in gay publications.

Why can't we see these attacks on homosexuals for what they really are: an attack on the Democratic Party? Now that Republican extremists no longer have "liberals" and "reds" hiding in the bushes at the Democratic Party, they've found a new and effective bugbear with which to scare vulnerable Americans.

The anti-gay ads are clever and effectual. Few things are more powerful than a bold faced lie when it has the imprimatur of "American," "patriot," or "Christian" attached to it.

I sincerely believe that there are far more real Christians, real authorities, and real democrats of both parties who would be willing to speak up and lend their opposition to this vicious propaganda campaign. Why can't the HRC, NGLTF, and the national Democratic Party organize such a coalition to bring the truth to the American public?

Herb King
Vista, CA

German bread, American profits

It would do well to heed Damiano Iocovozzi's letters (July 23 and August 6). Nazi logic is based, in part, on the logic of the crusades (which began soon after the last millennium 1000 years ago). It would do well to read and study Steven Runciman's *A History of the Crusades*. Even the Arab Christians who looked like the infidel where exterminated, even though they prayed to Jesus and made the sign of the cross. Ignorant lynch mobs are irrational when they believe they are absolutely right and can do no wrong and they alone are the darling children of their god. The affluent German Jews of the late 1930s believed that because their forebears had lived and worked in the German homeland for centuries, and because they had lots of money and property, that Hitler would never harm them - the infamous last words. Hitler claimed the Jews were eating German bread much like the rhetoric of the Republicans who are claiming that the poor and those with AIDS are consuming American profits - same idea, different words.

Much of the unrest that is plaguing us is the millennium fear that consumes fundamentalist Christians. Their logic is all based on the dread "Second Coming" in the year 2000 or 2001, as explained in the literal reading of the Book of Revelation, where Jesus kills all his enemies and the elite are taken into the New Jerusalem. The compassionate and merciful Jesus of the Gospels has been forgotten and the avenging Jesus of Revelation dominates the fundamentalists' mentality. For the new "chosen people," i.e. the United States, all diverse groups of people whom do not act, look, and pray to the same god in exactly the same way must be forced to convert or be exterminated. If they do not do this, then Jesus will not come back and "save" them.

When Jesus does not come back, the fundamentalists will be looking for a scapegoat, and we are the top of the list. All other religious minorities - Buddhists (Zen, Tibetan, etc.); Muslims (Sufi, Shlite, and Sunnite); Orthodox Christian (Russian, Greek, etc.); Roman and Byzantine Catholic and other High Church Christians and the other diverse Christian churches, Jews (Orthodox, Conservative and Reformed) and all the non-fundamentalist churches and atheists - will soon follow suit.

I personally do not believe the politicians of the country care a damn for the fundamentalists, but it must be irresistible to have a made-to-order army of crusaders who will do the work for you. It is much easier to manipulate and exploit people who are afraid than those who are fearless.

D. Alexander Matley
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Another intelligent letter from Mr. Iocovozzi leads off this week's Mailstrom.]



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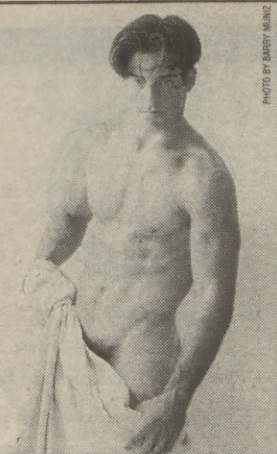
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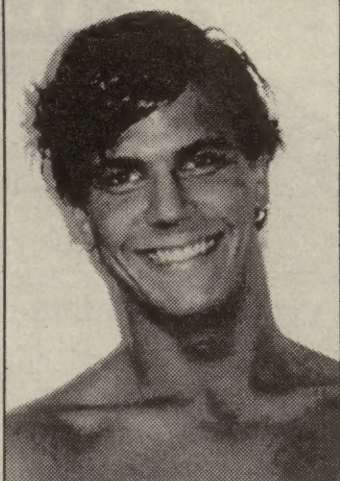


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Bury 'queer'

It was with great pleasure and surprise that I read a guest editorial in the B.A.R. of 7/30 entitled "Queer Atheists Raise Objections to Millennium March." It is not often that the voice of freethinkers is heard in the press. Rather, we get an assortment of spiritual twaddle that assures us that all we have to do is change a few Bible passages to our liking and all is well.

But now I'm the ingrate: the word "queer" is one that many of us in the gay community (whatever that's supposed to be) have difficulty with. It ought to be buried for the good of all. We been through the healing power of that word with the late and unlamented Queer Nation, we're still paying the price for that folly. In the meanwhile, the religious right has taken the lesson with such creations as "partial birth abortion" and "special rights for gays." They preach beyond the choir. We don't.

All that aside, thanks for letting an alternate voice be heard. That is what free press is all about!

Kenneth J. Miller
San Francisco

Adopt 'queer'

I grew up in rural West Texas, where I was always perceived as being "different" by my peers. Throughout my childhood, I was continually the brunt of mean-spirited taunts, and would cry when my classmates called me queer. It was meant to hurt. It did.

So years later, I reveled in the gay community publicly embracing the word queer, the beginning the process of taking the intended harm away from the cord. In the past few years, every major city has fostered groups that wear the word queer as a badge: Queer Nation, Deaf Queer Resource Center, Queer Ohio. There are over 600 organizations on the web that embrace the word queer. Even the issue of the B.A.R. that ran the commentary from Mr. Sproat ["Do not like 'queer' connotation," *Mailstrom*, July 30], there are mentions of Queer Latino PAC, Queer Atheists, a church for Queers in Vallejo, and a feature called Queer Science.

When I set out to define my new company, I wanted a name that would immediately telegraph the fact that it was gay owned and operated. Queer Brewing Company could be nothing else. And to personally help further the agenda of taking the word back has been a very healing process for myself.

I would counter Mr. Sproat's point of view that Queer Brewing Company gives the straight community "something else to laugh at." I argue that it gives them something else to "think about." For those people in the straight community that have used the term queer as a negative connotation, it sends them a message that they have one less word in their arsenal of derogatory words, and that we refuse to allow them to foster that disdain. It's our word now, not yours.

I'm proud to call myself queer. I'm proud to have created a company that is from the queer community. And I'm proud to own a company that gives 10 percent of its profits back to that community. If his disapproval of the word queer is enough for Mr. Sproat to continue feeding the coffers of beer companies (many of which once spurned us and now court us), I'm sure they'll appreciate his business and money.

And to those who continue to use "queer" as a barb, "We're beer. We're queer. Get used to it."

Phillip Feemster
Queer President, Queer Brewing Company
San Francisco

No 'regrets'

Shame on Don Romesburg and GLAAD for their pitiful acceptance of Green Bay Packers President Bob Harlan's tepid response to the gay community's outrage stemming from another bashing by Reggie White. [GLAAD Media Watch, July 30.] Romesburg took a quote from a letter Harlan wrote to the Human Rights Campaign stating: "As an organization, we regret the use of our uniform in the advertisement. Please accept our apologies."

They regret the use of their uniform in the ad? That's tantamount to "sorry our defenseman clipped your receiver" or "sorry our pass-rusher slammed your quarterback to the ground after he released the ball." The penalty should result in a fine, in White's case, admonishment or censure by the Green Bay Packers and the National Football League.

Mr. Harlan's back-handed apology is not enough. Instead of following Romesburg's timid suggestion to thank Harlan for the table scraps; write the NFL and the Packers asking for condemnation of Reggie White and his so-called religious right troublemakers for their contemptible attempts to create a climate of hate against a segment of their fellow Americans: the gay and lesbian community. Contact NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue at 280 Park Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10017, and Robert Harlan, president of the Green Bay Packers, 1265 Lombardi Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54304.

Lee Schoenbart
San Francisco

Oh my God, they killed 'Vida!'

The latest development from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation ["SFAF kills HIV+ Latinos' Life and Movement, B.A.R., July 23] is an obscene installment from *South Park*, right? With cruelty replacing comedy, and greed replacing wit. On *South Park*, Cartman discovers an obese Sally Struthers lolling grossly in a warehouse full of food, eating her way through its stores while vast numbers of starving Ethiopians wait to be fed outside. When Cartman asks for something to eat he is offered a cheap watch instead. All very funny in an outrageous cartoon. It isn't funny in real life, it's just outrageous. The volunteers who gave their time and energy to make the canceled *Vida y Movimiento* campaign work didn't even get a cheap watch, just a letter, and some of them not even that.

Have the executives who earn six-figure salaries there ever noticed the name of the organization that is on the front door, the stationery, the directory listings, their place of employment? It's called the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, not the *Me* Foundation.

I have been an AIDS activist for 16 years, and in that time I have met many caring, compassionate people; people who gave of their time, money, energy, and strength to work at finding solutions to the scourge of AIDS and its attendant problems; heroic people who did not care about how their involvement would benefit them, but rather how it would benefit others. True heroes. Are there none left?

And finally, bloated salaries make the phrase non-profit an oxymoron!

Rick Salinas
San Francisco

Milk and Teng: what a combo!

To follow up on Cynthia Laird's story of last week ["Gay Clubs skirmish over Teng's alleged comment about Ammiano"], the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Democratic Club would like to clearly state its concerns regarding Supervisor Mabel Teng's comments on Chinese Radio AM 1400 We unconditionally reject homophobia in political campaigns; our bylaws specifically address this.

While San Francisco is usually seen as a haven for the LGBT community, conditions are far from perfect. It is inappropriate for a sitting supervisor, representing our city, to demonstrate conduct that would demean the community and our leaders. It is not the luxury of our community to compromise on this and find reasons why it might be appropriate to refer to someone's sexual orientation when addressing those outside our community.

On this matter, we have one simple question for Mabel Teng: When publicly criticizing an elected leader from our community because they didn't support your version of the budget, why is it necessary to reference their sexual orientation? Homosexuality is not relevant to the budget process. We have yet to hear a reference to Barbara Kaufman as "the heterosexual supervisor."

We have yet to hear from Supervisor Teng on this issue, more than a week after bringing it to her attention. Unfortunately, this continues a pattern; the Milk Club has contacted Supervisor Teng's office previously on other issues, and never received a response. Though we are the largest open Democratic club in the city, we deserve the simple consideration due any constituent.

We recognize that Supervisor Teng has a history of publicly supporting equal rights for our community. Campaigns can be stressful and sometimes people say or do things they would not normally do. But when such mistakes are made, they should be addressed and rectified.

We've heard from many Cantonese-speaking people who heard the radio show. Reactions ranged from members of the public who were appalled, to those who found the discussion innocuous. Clearly, the supervisor's words had some effect on the audience.

There are less than three months to go before the November 3 election. The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club would like all candidates to promise to steer their campaigns away from divisive tactics. We look forward to a clean election with clear choices.

Criss Romero
President, Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/
Transgender Democratic Club

Home run Batt

This letter is in concern for our neighborhood. As I walk the Castro I notice loud and obnoxious signs painted in neon on the sidewalks. I would have hoped that the Dyke March and Reunion would have kindly removed them by now. Also, I noticed that Patrick Batt, President of the Merchants of Upper Market Street, has done a great job in getting our streets and sidewalks clean. Seeing the Green Machines and the streets clear of trash is greatly appreciated and I would like this to continue. It is a shame that those responsible for painting the signs on the sidewalk aren't concerned enough to remove them.

Tony Clark
San Francisco

POLITICS

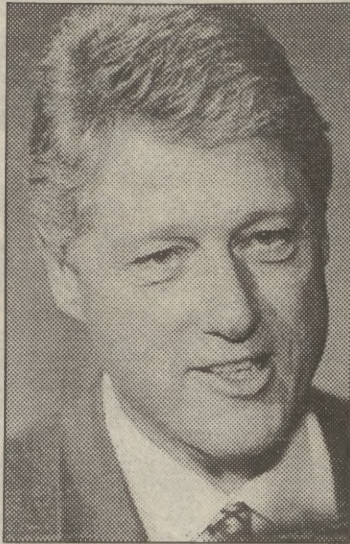
L'affaire Lewinsky

by Wayne Friday

President **Bill Clinton** finally gets his day in court on Monday when he appears in front of **Kenneth Starr's** federal prosecutors in person, and in front of a federal grand jury via television hook-up. The biggest guessing game in Washington these final few days until the president faces his inquisitors is "What will he say, and which course will he take?" Will Clinton go before the grand jury continue to steadfastly maintain that he had no sexual relationship with **Monica Lewinsky** at all, and that she is lying when she claims that the two indeed did have sexual relations — numerous times — knowing that allowing himself to get caught up in lies will surely eventually bring down his presidency?

Beltway insiders this weekend generally advised Clinton to make peace with his wife, stand up and say "Here's the deal" (even though it might make Kenneth Starr's case). These people (like **Orrin Hatch**, the GOP senator from Utah) claim that if Clinton admits to lying by saying "I made a mistake, I lied because I didn't want to hurt my family, I'm embarrassed but terribly sorry; now let's get on with nation's business," it is doubtful he would be impeached or forced to resign. Many of Clinton's staunchest advisors are also advising him to go the "I lied, but I'm very sorry" route (again, assuming he in fact did lie) — people like openly gay Democratic Representative **Barney Frank** of Massachusetts, his former press secretary **Dee Dee Myers**, his former close White House adviser **George Stephanopoulos**, and Delaware's Senator **Joseph Biden**, a close Clinton confidante. Former White House chief of staff **Leon Panetta** practically begs Clinton to level with both the grand jury and the American people when he says, "I think this matter is important enough that the president should sit down, stare the American people in the eye — when an American president has to testify in this kind of matter, he has a special bond of trust with the people and I think that bond of trust can be upheld if he speaks directly to them about the truth and what he is telling the grand jury; above all, he must be truthful."

If I were a betting man I'd probably bet that the president will take a defiant stance toward Starr's prosecutors; although only Clinton, his wife, and a few close advisors know for sure what course he will take, the fact that his close aides now appear to pointedly dismiss pleas from members of Congress from both parties — as well as former aides like Myers, Panetta, and Stephanopoulos — that Clinton acknowledge an affair, can only lead to the feeling that he plans to stick to his story this Monday and ride it out, hoping for the best. Like most Americans, I have to think that the president, given his history, did have a relationship with Lewinsky and is lying through his teeth. At the same time, I think he has been a damned good president otherwise. It's up to Bubba Bill on Monday; if he admits to lying previously, apologizes and asks the



President Clinton

country's understanding and forgiveness, I hope he survives. If the guy is less than truthful and tries to pull a fast one on the American people who twice elected him to the White House, the guy deserves to go down. Even President Clinton's staunchest supporters will have to wonder aloud about a man, even a president, who was willing to risk it all for sex. Incidentally, the above-mentioned

Myers is reportedly privately telling close friends here in San Francisco that she now believes her former boss "very likely" did have an affair with Lewinsky. Myers, once the press secretary to the **Frank Jordan**-for-mayor campaign, left San Francisco after Jordan won and went directly to Little Rock to join the fledgling Clinton-for-president campaign and ended up as the powerful White House press secretary in Clinton's first term.

Politics and people

Supervisor **Mabel Teng**, speaking at Monday's Toklas Demo Club meeting, blasted those from the Milk Club who had criticized her for supposedly referring to **Tom Ammiano** as "that homosexual supervisor" during an interview with a Chinese radio station. She even went so far as to suggest the Milk Club members "need sensitivity training." Teng told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she didn't use the word for "homosexual," but did identify Ammiano as "the gay supervisor," Oh. Obviously troubled by the furor her remark has caused, Teng said she was tired of "all the bullshit" that has hit the fan, but went out of her way to insist to me that although it would be racist to refer to her as "that Chinese supervisor" in the non-Asian community, "within the Chinese culture" it is customary and not at all homophobic to refer to someone by their homosexuality. Afterwards, member after member of the Toklas Club voiced support for Teng, with some openly attacking the Milk Club for its criticism of her remarks, and the club passed a "surprise" hastily arranged resolution of support for her. She responded in kind by thanking the club for "standing up for justice."

More trouble in Supeland: where do Supervisors **Michael Yaki**, **Leslie Katz**, and **Mark Leno** get off snubbing the voters' will over Treasure Island (Prop. K)? A big mistake. As for Katz's explaining her vote to ignore the June vote on Prop. K by saying "one of the things that we're

elected to do is to lead," and adding, "I do not think dismantling the authority is logical or necessarily what the voters had in mind" — well, it's interesting to learn that Katz has a better knowledge of what the voters had in mind than do the voters. As for "leading," maybe she should show a bit more "leadership" and less "following," as in always following what Mayor **Willie Brown** wants. No, I don't believe the fact that the mayor appointed all three of the supes (Yaki, Katz, and Leno) to the board played a part in how they voted. Yeah, right.

While Brown steadfastly seeks early endorsements from any place he can get them nearly a year and a half before the next mayoral election, whispers are growing that Da Mayor might not have such smooth sailing next year as he wants: as one longtime City Hall political watcher pointed out this week, "If **Clint Reilly** takes on Willie from the right and someone like **Roberta Achtenberg** or **Angela Alioto** decides to go after him from the left, the mayor could be in some real trouble." Could this be the reason that the mayor is going after those early endorsements?

In the race for governor of California, the latest poll conducted by Mason/Dixon Media Research after the first statewide debate shows Lieutenant Governor **Gray Davis** leading Attorney General **Dan Lungren** by nine points, 48 to 39 percent. One reason Davis is thought to be slightly ahead, and might squeeze out a win for the Democrats in November: he has a definite advantage with the state's Hispanic voters, thanks in part to his running mate **Cruz Bustamante**, the Demo nominee for Lieutenant Governor and the first Latino speaker of the state Assembly. An estimated 600,000 new Hispanic voters have registered to vote in the state since GOP Governor **Pete Wilson** backed the anti-immigrant Prop. 187 in 1994, and with Bustamante on the ticket this year, for the most part these new half million plus Hispanic voters will not be voting Republican in November.

The November election in Berkeley will assure that at least one city council member is gay; in District 7 both incumbent Councilmember **Kriss Worthington** and challenger **George Beier** are openly gay. Berkeley mayor **Shirley Dean** will face a strong challenge in November from former city councilmember **Don Jelinek**.

African-Americans who call themselves Republicans are said to be more than a bit pissed that their party is not reaching out to recruit more black candidates for Congress this year. In 1994, there were 24 black Republican candidates for Congress, including one incumbent, Representative **Gary Franks** of Connecticut. Franks won that year, along with newcomer Representative **J. C. Watts** of Oklahoma. In 1996, there were only 16 African-American candidates. Watts won; Franks lost. The numbers for this year are even worse: fewer than 10 black candidates are expected to carry the GOP banner in November.

Something for the Dems: Colorado Governor **Roy Romer**, the national chair of the Democratic party, is doing all he can to land the 2000 national convention in Denver, but party insiders are saying that Los Angeles is definitely the current favorite; the trump card for L.A. is California's huge block of 54 electoral votes. ▼

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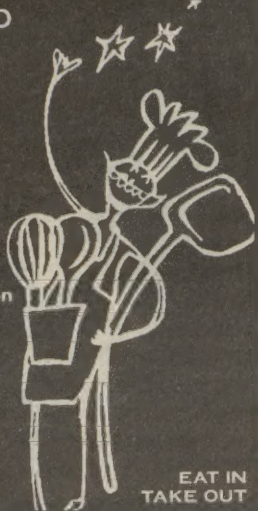
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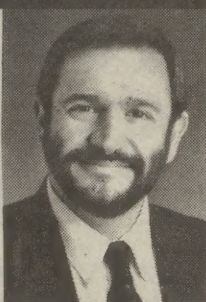
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COMMENTARY

Delicate sense-abilities

by Beth Elliott

Ready, Willing and Able to Raise Cain Dept.: In the wake of the Supreme Court ruling that HIV infection is a disability even for the asymptomatic, it was inevitable that, in this great land of ours, somebody would look to leverage this new case law into some supposed entitlement. Sure enough, an advocacy group called "Resolve" is urging people to use the finding in *Bragdon v. Abbott*—that anything interfering with the major life activity of reproduction is a protected disability—to lobby for mandatory inclusion of infertility treatment in health insurance coverage and time off work under the Family and Medical Leave Act for infertility treatments. They describe the current situation—one of taking personal responsibility and reproducing at one's own expense, not others'—as "illegal discrimination."

There's something I'd like to say about not wanting to pay, in taxes or increased health insurance premiums, for somebody else's fertility treatments. That, however, would rile some people because, well, if we start talking about whether other people should have to subsidize whatever care for whomever without representation, who knows where that might lead—like to questioning someone's pet syndrome. My suspicious mind wonders whether those who get the least care are those trying most to do for themselves before accepting a hand in the name of their dignity. And if I'm on the hook for paying for other people's healthcare, I'd much rather my money went to things like children's vaccinations instead of 14 kilonukes of medicine a year for someone who kept shooting speed in spite of the warnings, then hav-



ing unsafe sex, because it was such a great party drug, know what I mean? So you really don't want me to get into this topic.

But seriously, I do think the people who are the most physically challenged lose out on assistance to those who merely whine the loudest, which is why I find a fuss about extending Americans With Disabilities Act protections to the infertile (like myself) to be more than slightly obscene.

(Hmmm... wouldn't the politically correct thing be to describe myself as "a member of the infertile community"? Or "as a woman with an infertile identity"? Yeah, right, like I'm going to do the politically correct thing. As if!)

Nonetheless, to be sure I add to constructive dialogue instead of just firing sarcastic potshots (fun though that might be), I have a modest proposal to make. Instead of picking nits over what is and what isn't discrimination, there's probably an easier and more effective way to level the playing field and redistribute society's resources without unfairly stigmatizing anyone for any ability, lack of ability or disability they may or may not have. After all, in a nation this rich, there's no excuse for anyone being deprived of a certain standard of living. Insisting people be able to contribute to society's wealth if they want to share it only keeps people chained to stifling jobs and mindless consumerism.

And so, all fair-minded progressive people should look forward to the day when we can pick up the morning paper and read something like this:

"Congress Passes Americans With No Abilities Act"

Washington, D.C.: On Tuesday, Congress approved the Americans With No Abilities Act, sweeping new legislation that provides benefits and protection for more than 135 million talentless Americans. The act, signed into law by President Clinton shortly after its passage, is being hailed as a major victory for the millions upon millions of U.S. citizens who lack any real skills or uses.

"Roughly 50 percent of Americans—through no fault of their own—do not possess the talent necessary to carve out a meaningful role for themselves in society," said Clinton, a longtime ANA supporter. "Their lives are futile ham-

ster-wheel existences of unrewarding, dead-end busywork: Xeroxing documents written by others, fulfilling mail-in rebates for Black & Decker toaster ovens, and processing bureaucratic forms that nobody will ever see. Sadly, for these millions of nonabled Americans, the American dream of working hard and moving up through the ranks is simply not a reality."

Under the Americans With No Abilities Act, more than 25 million important-sounding "middle man" positions will be created in the white-collar sector for nonabled persons, providing them with an illusory sense of purpose and ability. Mandatory, non-performance-based raises and promotions will also be offered to create a sense of upward mobility for even the most unremarkable, utterly replaceable employees.

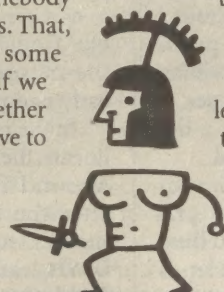
The legislation also provides corporations with incentives to hire nonabled workers, including tax breaks for those who hire one non-germane worker for every two talented hires.

Finally, the Americans With No Abilities Act also contains tough new measures to prevent discrimination against the nonabled by banning prospective employers from asking such job-interview questions as, "What can you bring to this organization?" and "Do you have any special skills that would make you an asset to this company?"

"As a nonabled person, I frequently find myself unable to keep up with co-workers who have something going for them," said Mary Lou Gertz, who lost her position as an unessential filing clerk at a Minneapolis tile wholesaler last month because of her lack of notable skills. "This new law should really help people like me." With the passage of the Americans With No Abilities Act, Gertz and millions of other untalented, inessential citizens can finally see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Said Clinton: "It is our duty, both as lawmakers and as human beings, to provide each and every American citizen, regardless of his or her lack of value to society, some sort of space to take up in this great nation."

Actually, there may be a more informal version of the ANA at work; MSNBC had a report of a man denied a job because he was considered too intelligent for it... that he'd get bored, even though it was a lifelong dream. The thought of taking an IQ test makes me shudder... but, all of a sudden, some of my career history seems to make a lot more sense... ▼



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MEDIA ALERT

Same facts, different takes

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

Two weeks after 15 religious political extremist groups launched an ad campaign claiming that lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people could change their sexual orientation, several major media outlets have examined that egregious claim at some length — with varied results. Here are some of the highlights:

• *Nightline*: Forrest Tucker, substituting as host of ABC's *Nightline* on July 30, moderated a debate between Andrew Sullivan, former editor of the *New Republic*, and Center for Reclaiming America Director Janet Folger, who engineered the ad campaign. Sullivan asked repeatedly whether Folger supports laws allowing imprisonment for having sex with someone of the same gender. After Folger gave several non-responsive answers, Sawyer pressed, "Ms. Folger, forgive me. He is asking the direct question, 'Do you support laws that advocate the imprisonment of people who engage in homosexual behavior?'" Folger answered, "I guess if you're looking at sodomy laws, there are sodomy laws on the books that I very much support."

• *USA Today*: An August 4 Life section cover story examines various aspects of the so-called "ex-gay" movement — while firmly stating that the bulk of scientific opinion questions its effectiveness. Reporter Kim Painter writes that the American Psychological Association "says that there's no evidence such therapy works and that it may do more harm than good." Sadly,

the piece carried a thoughtless headline on one of four accompanying sidebars. The headline, about an "ex-gay" couple, reads "Once gay, now they're a family" — giving the incorrect impression that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals do not have families. Overall, however, Painter makes strong points about the true nature of the ad campaign, and points out that "conversion therapies" can harm individuals and their families.

• *Washington Post*: A July 31 article examining Washington, D.C.-area "ex-gay" groups leads with a vignette of Corey Welch, who "escaped from what he considers the clutches of a depraved underworld and entered the welcoming arms of the Transformation Christian Ministries" — a group that reporter Hanna Rosin says, "shepherds gay men and women away from the 'devil's temptation.'"

• *The Village Voice*: An August 11 article by Mark Schoofs, entitled, "Straight to Hell: When Gays Go Hetero, the Consequences Can Be Anything But Redemptive," says some survivors of the "ex-gay" programs call them "psychological terrorism." Yet they've "suddenly gained media credibility, simply because conservative political groups, such as the Christian Coalition and the Family Research Council, shelled out \$200,000 for a high-profile ad campaign."

• *Philadelphia Inquirer*: "Christian gays caught in a conflict," reads the front page headline. "Some in Phila. choose faith over sexuality." Like the *Washington Post* report, the article describes a support group for persons unhappy with their sexual orientation. Despite of a brief quote from

GLAAD Communications Director Jennifer Einhorn, the *Inquirer* devotes only perfunctory space to telling the other side of the story.

• *The New York Times*: In the August 2 "Backtalk" column, former Green Bay Packer David Kopay — the first professional football player to say he's gay — tells current Green Bay Packer Reggie White that "Sexual repression, alcoholism, spousal abuse, child abuse, drug addiction, loneliness, hate and ignorance are the real enemies we face. Lighten up on gay folks, because we are not the enemy." White repeatedly has made homophobic comments and is featured in one of the conservative ads. Contact:

• *Nightline*, 1717 DeSales St. NW, Washington, DC 20036-4401, fax: 202.222.7976, e-mail: niteline@abc.com

• Howell Raines, Editorial/Opinion Page Editor, *New York Times*, 229 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036-3959, fax: 212.556.3690, e-mail: letters@nytimes.com (include phone number when sending e-mails).

• Susan Weiss, Life Section Editor, *USA Today*, 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. 22209-3901, fax: 703.247.6580, e-mail: editor@usatoday.com (include name, address and phone).

• Robert G. Kaiser, Managing Editor, *Washington Post*, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20071-0002, e-mail via WWW: <http://www.washingtonpost.com>.

• Doug Simmons, Managing Editor, *Village Voice*, 36 Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003, fax: 212.475.8944, e-mail: editor@villagevoice.com.

• William Ward, Managing Editor, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 400 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19130-4015, fax: 215.854.5884, e-mail: inquirer.letters@phillynews.com



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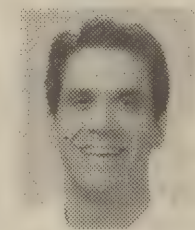
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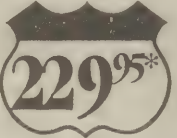
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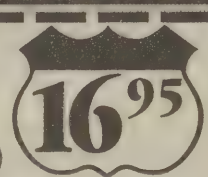
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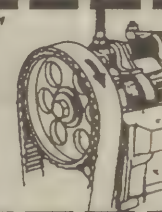
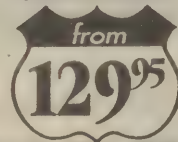


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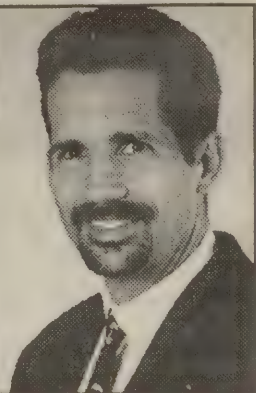
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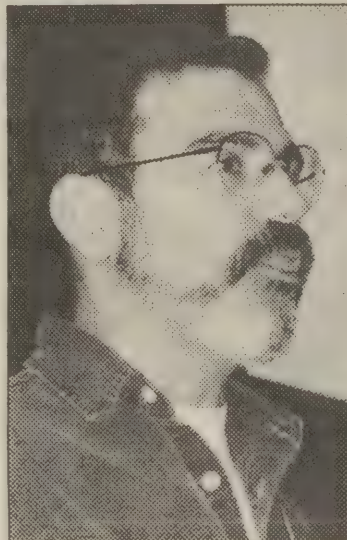
by David Bianco

According to popular myth, the musical genre called disco was imported to the United States from Europe in the 1960s. The word "discotheque" did indeed come from France, where it meant any club that played recorded dance music. However, disco music itself got its start in the black gay dance clubs of New York City in the late 1960s.

To placate their clients, many of whom wanted to dance all night, black gay deejays began experimenting with records by groups like the Temptations and the O'Jays. They phased records in and out, splicing soul with another style called "Philly." The result was disco, which had an insistent, pulsing, 120 beats per minute. Good disco music was nonstop; as one critic put it, the music saturated dancers and the dance floor.

Disco music, however, didn't achieve wide public attention until white gay men adopted it, creating dazzling dance clubs for feverish, continuous dancing. In the summer of 1970, in the early days of the gay liberation movement, the Ice Palace in Cherry Grove, Fire Island, was one of the first clubs to set up a deejay booth, gigantic speakers, a mirror ball, and elaborate lighting that pulsed in time with the music. "Disco" became synonymous with the clubs where the music played. Over the next decade in New York City, Los Angeles, and other cities across the country, vast, empty factories and warehouses were transformed into gay male pleasure palaces. Paradise Garage, the Flamingo, and the Saint were some of the glittering favorites of gay New York, while Studio One dominated Hollywood during disco's heyday.

With its open eroticism, disco music was a tangible reflection of gay sexual liberation. Song lyrics often suggested sex, with an emphasis on fleeting romantic encounters. Disco dancing, with its wild bumping and grinding, offered up the possibility of casual sex to gay men whose sexuality had long been controlled by the dominant culture. In disco clubs,



Gay historian Allan Bérubé

the *Advocate* reported in 1975, "Nobody cared who did what to whom, just as long as you didn't stand still." In this sense, disco fostered a sense of gay community centered around the idea of personal sexual freedom. Gay historian Allan Bérubé has recalled having "a spiritual moment or vision" while dancing in a gay club during the 1970s. He thought, "This is what it could be like ... if we were totally free."

As with many pop culture movements, disco gradually moved beyond its underground community, becoming a profitable enterprise. Clubs turned into expensive, members-only establishments. Record producers discovered the sound and in turn introduced it to straight America. The hits of straight recording artists like Gloria Gaynor ("I Will Survive") and Donna Summer ("Love to Love You") were embraced in the gay disco scene, since so many of the lyrics could be imbued with gay meaning. But disco also saw its share of gay performers whose popularity crossed over to straight audiences.

One such performer, Sylvester, began his career in the 1950s as a child gospel singer. In the late 1970s, he became an openly gay disco star, performing in evening gowns and boas and recording hits like "Disco Heat," "Fever," and writing the gold record, "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)," which is still a standard in gay clubs and at gay pride events.

Sylvester contributed most of his earnings to AIDS organizations before succumbing to the disease in 1988 at age 40. His female back-up singers, Two Tons o' Fun, found their own popularity in gay male clubs with the disco hit, "It's Raining Men."

The Village People presented a parody of both traditional masculinity and urban gay male culture, by performing in costumes as macho "types" — a construction worker, an Indian, a cowboy, a cop, a leatherman, and a soldier. To gay listeners, the group's biggest hits, like "Macho Man," and "YMCA," had obvious referents. But straight people who didn't know (or want to know) that YMCAs had historically been places for gay men to cruise each other and have sex could miss the double meaning of lyrics like, "It's fun to stay at the YMCA./They have everything for young men to enjoy./You can hang out with all the boys." At one point, "In The Navy" was even used in television commercials for the U.S. military.

Although their manager, Jacques Morali, was an openly gay man, the Village People weren't sold to the public as gay. Their 1980 film, *Can't Stop the Music*, for example, featured the "Indian," Felipe Rose, coming on to women. "If you become too political you become provocative," Morali said, "and you risk provoking a backlash." The movie's producer, Alan Carr, was more blunt: "You don't spend \$13 million to make a minority movie."

Hollywood, in fact, significantly watered down and transformed disco for straight consumption. The 1978 hit movie *Saturday Night Fever* marketed disco in a neat package and presented it to middle America as a new heterosexual fad. Like all fads, disco eventually faded, though it has recently been enjoying a revival in books and movies that tend to ignore the role of gay culture in creating the genre.

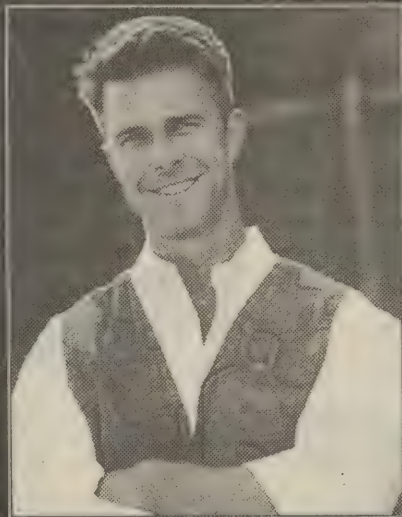
For many gay men, disco music was more than a passing fad, and it still holds a place in gay culture. The coming of the AIDS crisis may have forced many disco clubs from the landscape, but disco music itself has remained a symbol of gay sexual liberation. ▼

David Bianco, M.A. is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at AriBianco@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.gay.net.

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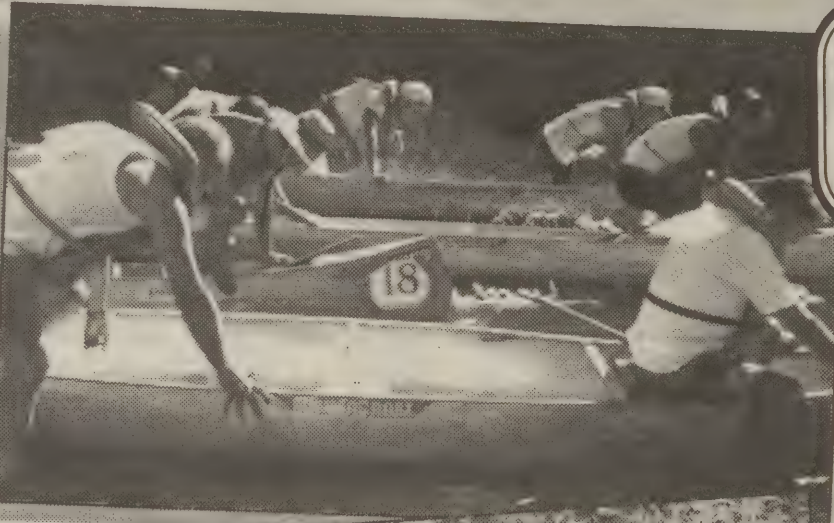
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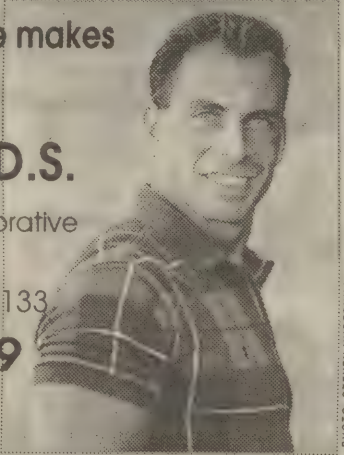


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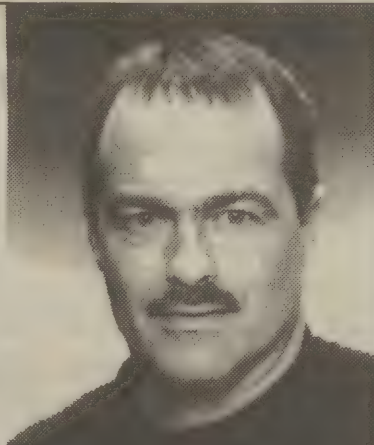
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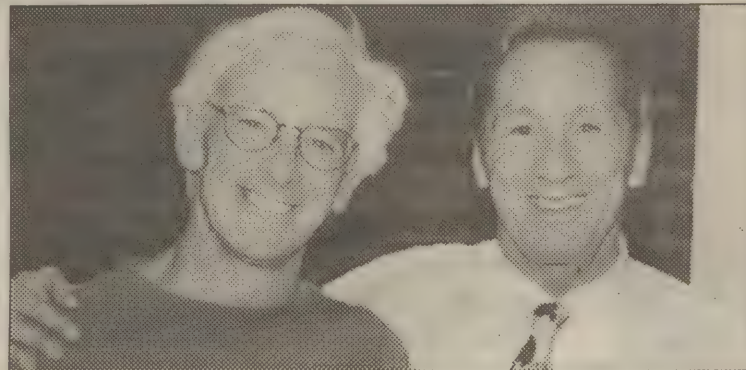
Peron packs up former pot club

by Cynthia Laird

The air smelled sweet and pungent as a thousand hanging origami cranes came down from the ceilings of the country's most famous medical marijuana center last Thursday, August 6. It was move-out day for Dennis Peron from 1444 Market Street, site of the former Cannabis Healing Center. The somber event came two years after state narcotic agents' infamous Sunday morning raid on the club that precipitated the still-ongoing legal battle against Peron, despite voters' passage of the medical marijuana Proposition 215 in November 1996.

According to Peron, the owner of the building is now looking to turn the former medical marijuana club into a mini-mall.

Peron and his faithful followers, volunteers, and medical marijuana advocates set about cleaning out the four-story building that has seen some colorful celebrations and sad letdowns since state Attorney General Dan Lungren made closing the club and prosecuting Peron his obsession. Dozens of "Peron for Governor"



Dennis Peron and Tom Ammiano at the Cannabis Healing Center move-out and farewell party on Thursday, August 6.

signs remained in the building; San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey had closed the club May 25, days before the June primary, in which Peron ran against Lungren for the Republican nomination. To no one's surprise, including his, he lost.

"There's not an end, it's the end of a chapter," Peron said as he sat on the floor in the middle of what was once his bustling but now near-empty office. "That's how I met people, I sold pot for 28 years."

Supporters hung around; many came to wish Peron well, some stopped by to help pack up

the numerous tables, chairs, potted house plants, hanging origami, and other assorted items. Nearly everyone had a story to tell.

"You made it so that sick people can grow pot," one man said, as he rolled a healthy-size joint to offer Peron, who gladly accepted.

Peron said he's been spending time at his ranch in Northern California and while he still gets calls from members of the media, he doesn't like the spotlight as much as he used to. "I'm even getting short with the press," Peron told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I was speaking for a movement. I always had to be 'on,' and now, I don't." ▼

Castro Fair art competition closes soon

by Timothy Rodrigues

Organizers of the Castro Street Fair are seeking artists to design a poster for the 25th annual event on Sunday, October 4, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All entries must be submitted no later than Monday, August 24. The winning design will be selected by local merchants and residents, and the artist of the winning entry will receive a \$300 prize. Producer Pablo Heising told

the *Bay Area Reporter* that interested artists should call him at (415) 467-3354 for a list of rules and requirements.

The Castro event is the second of two well-known street fairs that attract thousands of gay and lesbian visitors from around the world to San Francisco each autumn. The festivities begin with the Folsom Street Fair, part of Leather Pride Week. The party fills Folsom Street between 7th and 11th streets on the last Sunday in September (September 27 this

year), also from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is estimated that more than 300,000 people attended the Folsom event last year.

The Castro Street Fair immediately follows, on the first Sunday in October. It is held on Castro Street, from Market to 19th streets. ▼

For more information on the Castro Street Fair, call (415) 467-3354. For information on the Folsom Street Fair call (415) 861-3247.

It feels better without condoms...?

by Timothy Rodrigues

Stop AIDS Project (SAP) will host "Wild Thing," a community forum to discuss barebacking – fucking without condoms – this Saturday, August 15. The gathering will focus on the risks of unprotected sex, and on why so many men seem to be doing it.

Following a successful SAP forum last month on the realities and risks of Viagra, the organiza-

tion decided to sponsor this forum after several South of Market community activists identified barebacking as one of the key issues facing gay and bisexual men in San Francisco. It will be co-hosted by Stephan Edwards, Mr. San Francisco Leather 1998.

One of the goals of the forum will be to explore how men are using the term "barebacking." A street survey of 685 gay and bisexual men conducted by SAP volunteers shows that 25 percent did not know the term, and that 52

percent had been asked by a sexual partner not to use condoms during intercourse in the last six months. Complete results of the survey will be unveiled at the forum. ▼

The forum will take place from 2 to 4:30 p.m., at the Powerhouse bar located at 1347 Folsom (at Dore Alley) in San Francisco. For more information, call SAP (415) 575-0150.

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Please see brief summary for Combivir on following page.

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BRIEF SUMMARY

COMBIVIR™ Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

The following is a brief summary only; see full prescribing information for complete product information.

WARNING: ZIDOVUDINE, ONE OF THE TWO ACTIVE INGREDIENTS IN COMBIVIR, HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY INCLUDING NEUTROPENIA AND SEVERE ANEMIA, PARTICULARLY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HIV DISEASE (SEE WARNINGS). PROLONGED USE OF ZIDOVUDINE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SYMPTOMATIC MYOPATHY.

LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF ANTIRETROVIRAL NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING ZIDOVUDINE AND LAMIVUDINE (SEE WARNINGS).

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: COMBIVIR is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.

Description of Clinical Studies: *COMBIVIR:* There have been no clinical trials conducted with COMBIVIR. See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY for information about bioequivalence. One COMBIVIR Tablet given twice a day is an alternative regimen to EPIVIR Tablets 150 mg twice a day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day in divided doses.

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine: The NUCB3007 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPIVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg t.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy [zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)] to the addition of EPIVIR or EPIVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1,816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm³ at baseline were enrolled; median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naïve. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Patients (%) With At Least One HIV Disease-Progression Event or Death

Endpoint	Current Therapy (n = 460)	EPIVIR plus Current Therapy (n = 896)	EPIVIR plus a NNRTI* plus Current Therapy (n = 460)
HIV progression or death	90 (19.6%)	86 (9.6%)	41 (8.9%)
Death	27 (5.9%)	23 (2.6%)	14 (3.0%)

*An investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor not approved in the United States.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: COMBIVIR Tablets are contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components of the product.

WARNINGS: COMBIVIR is a fixed-dose combination of lamivudine and zidovudine. Ordinarily, COMBIVIR should not be administered concomitantly with either lamivudine or zidovudine.

The complete prescribing information for all agents being considered for use with COMBIVIR should be consulted before combination therapy with COMBIVIR is initiated.

Bone Marrow Suppression: COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1,000 cells/mm³ or hemoglobin <9.5 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Frequent blood counts are strongly recommended in patients with advanced HIV disease who are treated with COMBIVIR. For HIV-infected individuals and patients with asymptomatic or early HIV disease, periodic blood counts are recommended.

Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis: Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of antiretroviral nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including zidovudine and lamivudine. A majority of these cases have been in women. Caution should be exercised when administering COMBIVIR to any patient, and particularly to those with known risk factors for liver disease. Treatment with COMBIVIR should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or hepatotoxicity. **Myopathy:** Myopathy and myositis, with pathological changes similar to that produced by HIV disease, have been associated with prolonged use of zidovudine and therefore may occur with therapy with COMBIVIR.

PRECAUTIONS:

General: Reduction of doses of lamivudine is recommended for patients with low body weight (less than 50 kg or 110 lb); therefore patients with low body weight should not receive COMBIVIR.

Patients With HIV and Hepatitis B Virus Coinfection: In clinical trials and postmarketing experience, some patients with HIV infection who have chronic liver disease due to hepatitis B virus infection experienced clinical or laboratory evidence of recurrent hepatitis upon discontinuation of lamivudine. Consequences may be more severe in patients with decompensated liver disease.

Patients With Impaired Renal Function: Reduction of the dosages of lamivudine and zidovudine is recommended for patients with impaired renal function. Patients with creatinine clearance ≤50 mL/min should not receive COMBIVIR.

Information for Patients: COMBIVIR is not a cure for HIV infection and patients may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised that the use of COMBIVIR has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the major toxicities of COMBIVIR are neutropenia and/or anemia. They should be told of the extreme importance of having their blood counts followed closely while on therapy, especially for patients with advanced HIV disease. Patients should be advised of the importance of taking COMBIVIR as it is prescribed.

Drug Interactions: Coadministration of ganciclovir, interferon-alpha, and other bone marrow suppressive or cytotoxic agents may increase the hematologic toxicity of zidovudine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section of full prescribing information).

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity:

Lamivudine: Lamivudine long-term carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats showed no evidence of carcinogenic potential at exposures up to 10 times (mice) and 58 times (rats) those observed in humans at the recommended therapeutic dose.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine was administered orally at three dosage levels to separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg per day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg per day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg per day after day 90 because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the high dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg per day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg per day on day 279.

In mice, seven late-appearing (after 19 months) vaginal neoplasms (five non-metastasizing squamous cell carcinomas, one squamous cell papilloma, and one squamous polyp) occurred in animals given the highest dose. One late-appearing squamous cell papilloma occurred in the vagina of a middle-dose animal. No vaginal tumors were found at the lowest dose.

In rats, two late-appearing (after 20 months); non-metastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

At doses that produced tumors in mice and rats, the estimated drug exposure (as measured by AUC) was approximately three times (mouse) and 24 times (rat) the estimated human exposure at the recommended therapeutic dose of 100 mg every 4 hours.

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately three times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the liver or lung or any other organ in either gender. These findings are consistent with results of the standard oral carcinogenicity study in mice, as described earlier. A second study administered zidovudine at maximum tolerated doses of 12.5 mg/day or 25 mg/day (~1,000 mg/kg nonpregnant body weight or ~450 mg/kg of term body weight) to pregnant mice from days 12 through 18 of gestation. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the higher dose level of zidovudine.

It is not known how predictive the results of rodent carcinogenicity studies may be for humans.

Mutagenicity: Lamivudine: Lamivudine was negative in a microbial mutagenicity screen, in an in vitro cell transformation assay, in a rat micronucleus test, in a rat bone marrow cytogenetic assay, and in an assay for unscheduled DNA synthesis in rat liver. It was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK⁺ mouse lymphoma assay and clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK⁺ mouse lymphoma assay, positive in an in vitro cell transformation assay, clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes, and positive in mouse and rat micronucleus tests after repeated doses. It was negative in a cytogenetic study in rats given a single dose.

Impairment of Fertility: Lamivudine: In a study of reproductive performance, lamivudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, revealed no evidence of impaired fertility (judged by conception rates) and no effect on the survival, growth, and development to weaning of the offspring.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 7 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, had no effect on fertility judged by conception rates.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C.

COMBIVIR: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of COMBIVIR in pregnant women. Reproduction studies with lamivudine and zidovudine have been performed in animals (see Lamivudine and Zidovudine sections below). COMBIVIR should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

Lamivudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered lamivudine have been performed in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryolethality was seen in the rabbit at doses similar to those produced by the usual adult dose and higher, but there was no indication of this effect in the rat at orally administered doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose. Studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that lamivudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta.

Zidovudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered zidovudine in the rat and in the rabbit at doses up to 500 mg/kg per day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity with zidovudine. Zidovudine treatment resulted in embryo/fetal toxicity as evidenced by an increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg per day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg per day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in rats 66 to 226 times, and in rabbits 12 to 87 times, mean steady-state peak human plasma concentrations (after one-sixth of the daily dose) achieved with the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours). In an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3,000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3,683 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. This dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in this experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg per day or less. Two rodent carcinogenicity studies were conducted (see Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility).

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to COMBIVIR™ Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets) and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling (800) 722-9292, ext. 39437.

Nursing Mothers: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

COMBIVIR: Zidovudine is excreted in breast milk (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics: Nursing Mothers section of full prescribing information); however, no data are available on COMBIVIR or lamivudine. Therefore, there is a potential for adverse effects in nursing infants. **Mothers should be instructed not to breast-feed if they are receiving COMBIVIR.**

Pediatric Use: COMBIVIR should not be administered to pediatric patients less than 12 years of age because it is a fixed-dose combination that cannot be adjusted for this patient population.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine Administered As Separate Formulations: In four randomized, controlled trials of EPIVIR 300 mg per day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day, the following selected clinical and laboratory adverse events were observed (see Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2: Selected Clinical Adverse Events (≥5% Frequency) in Four Controlled Clinical Trials With EPIVIR 300 mg/day and RETROVIR 600 mg/day

Adverse Event	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR (n = 251)
Body as a whole	
Headache	35%
Malaise & fatigue	27%
Fever or chills	10%
Digestive	
Nausea	33%
Diarrhea	18%
Nausea & vomiting	13%
Anorexia and/or decreased appetite	10%
Abdominal pain	9%
Abdominal cramps	6%
Dyspepsia	5%
Nervous system	
Neuropathy	12%
Insomnia & other sleep disorders	11%
Dizziness	10%
Depressive disorders	9%
Respiratory	
Nasal signs & symptoms	20%
Cough	18%
Skin	
Skin rashes	9%
Musculoskeletal	
Musculoskeletal pain	12%
Myalgia	8%
Arthralgia	5%

Pancreatitis was observed in three of the 656 adult patients (<0.5%) who received EPIVIR in controlled clinical trials. Selected laboratory abnormalities observed during therapy are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities Among Adults in Four Controlled Clinical Trials of EPIVIR 300 mg/day plus RETROVIR 600 mg/day*

Test (Abnormal Level)	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR % (n)
Neutropenia (ANC<750/mm ³)	7.2% (237)
Anemia (Hgb<8.0 g/dL)	2.9% (241)
Thrombocytopenia (platelets<50,000/mm ³)	0.4% (240)
ALT (>5.0 x ULN)	3.7% (241)
AST (>5.0 x ULN)	1.7% (241)
Bilirubin (>2.5 x ULN)	0.8% (241)
Amylase (>2.0 x ULN)	4.2% (72)

ULN = Upper limit of normal.

ANC = Absolute neutrophil count.

n = Number of patients assessed.

*Frequencies of these laboratory abnormalities were higher in patients with mild laboratory abnormalities at baseline.

Observed During Clinical Practice: The following events have been identified during post-approval use of EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR, or a combination of these factors.

Alopecia, erythema multiforme, hyperglycemia, lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), pancreatitis, seizures, sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), Stevens-Johnson syndrome, urticaria, and vasculitis.

OVERDOSAGE:

COMBIVIR: There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

Lamivudine: One case of an adult ingesting 6 grams of lamivudine was reported; there were no clinical signs or symptoms noted and hematologic tests remained normal. It is not known whether lamivudine can be removed by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

Zidovudine: Acute overdoses of zidovudine have been reported in pediatric patients and adults. These involved exposures up to 50 grams. The only consistent findings were nausea and vomiting. Other reported occurrences included headache, dizziness, drowsiness, lethargy, confusion, and one report of a grand mal seizure. Hematologic changes were transient. All patients recovered. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, 3'-azido-3'-deoxy-5'-O-β-D-glucopyranuronosylthymidine (GZDV), is enhanced.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: The recommended oral dose of COMBIVIR for adults and adolescents (at least 12 years of age) is one tablet (containing 150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine) twice daily.

Dose Adjustment: Because it is a fixed-dose combination, COMBIVIR should not be prescribed for patients requiring dosage adjustment such as those with reduced renal function (creatinine clearance ≤50 mL/min), those with low body weight (<50 kg or 110 lb), or those experiencing dose-limiting adverse events.

US Patent Nos. 5,047,407; 4,818,538; 4,828,838; 4,724,232; 4,833,130; and 4,837,208

GlaxoWellcome

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Lamivudine is manufactured under agreement from Biochem Pharma Inc.
Laval, Quebec, Canada

January 1998/RL-505

COMMUNITY NEWS

River's Cup resurrected for emergency

by Lois Pearlman

Popular dance music diva Martha Wash will headline a revival of the River's Cup canoe race and regatta in Guerneville next Saturday, August 22, as a fundraiser for providing emergency grants to local people living with HIV/AIDS (PWA).

In addition to Wash, whose chart-topping hits include "It's Raining Men" and "Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)," the event will feature something for every taste — a canoe race for muscle jocks, the "Anything that Floats" boat regatta for the decoratively-inclined, and an all-star line-up of pop and country singers for those who like to boogie on the beach.

Sharing the stage with Wash will be Cynthia Manley, best known for her 1982 hit "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," Linda Imperial with her latest song "Where the Boys Are," Jeanie Tracy of "Don't Leave Me This

Way" fame, Vikki Shepard, Jo Carol, Jessica Williams, and country singers Randy Riggs and Charlie Pacheco.

Empress XXX Donna Sachet, 49ers Hall of Famer Bob Sinclair, Sonoma County Sheriff Jim Piccinini, and other luminaries are slated to judge the regatta competition.

Scheduled to begin at 11 a.m., the River's Cup and Diva Day '98 will take place at Midway Beach behind the Stumptown Brewery, 14045 River Road, between Rio Nido and Guerneville. Free parking and shuttle service will be available at the Rodeo Gardens on Armstrong Woods Road, just north of town.

Tickets, priced at \$25 general admission and \$15 for PWAs, will include all the events, a barbecue lunch, a chance to win a canoe or two nights at the Russian River Resort, and parking and shuttle service on the Sonoma County Transit trolley.

Sponsorship of a canoe race

entry is \$50 for individuals and \$100 for businesses, and includes admission to the event for two. Sponsorship of a regatta entry is \$50 for individuals and \$75 for businesses, and also includes two admissions. Canoes will be provided for entrants who do not have their own.

The daylong affair, a resurrection of an annual event that raised tens of thousands of dollars for AIDS services in the past, will be the major fundraiser this year for the AIDS Emergency Fund, Sonoma County.

Since the San Francisco AIDS Emergency Fund (AEF) was forced by budgetary constraints to eliminate services to PWAs in outlying counties earlier this year, the quickly-formed Sonoma County group has been working hard to restore the \$400 per year grants to locals. Under an informal agreement, the SF AEF has agreed to provide 35 percent matching funds if the Sonoma County group can raise its share of the approximately \$100,000 needed to

reinstate the program.

The group has already garnered several thousand dollars through donations and movie nights, and is looking forward to large contributions from the Sonoma County AIDS Foundation, the United Way, and the west Sonoma County-based AIDS Ministry. According to spokesperson Betsy Van Dyke, a successful River's Cup will put the group's efforts over the top.

"I am cautiously optimistic that we will be able to reinstate the emergency grants through a combination of all the fundraising efforts of the various members of this coalition," Van Dyke said.

While there has not been a River's Cup since the 1995 floods, it was one of the area's most suc-

cessful AIDS fundraisers between 1987 and 1994. The first year it was simply a canoe race and barbecue, but over the years it grew into a major event which included the crowd-pleasing regatta of fantastically decorated river craft, entertainment, and a pool tournament at Molly Brown's Saloon, which pitted local radio personalities against community members.

In past years the River's Cup benefited a variety of AIDS organizations, but this year all the proceeds will go to reinstate the emergency grant program. ▼

For more information, or to register for the canoe race or regatta, call (707) 869-3533 or (707) 869-3400.

No obits

◀ page 1

erosexual community in general.

Dr. Mitch Katz, the city's health director, said in a prepared statement, "We are heartened by the substantial decreases in death due to AIDS in San Francisco and elsewhere. Our challenge is to develop therapies for people who are failing the currently available medications and to develop less expensive and more easily administered regimens, so that more people can benefit from HIV treatment."

"Simultaneously, we need to emphasize that the most effective HIV treatment is prevention," Katz added.

Pabich emphasized the need for services given that people are living longer. "We need to keep in mind that there are more people around who need services."

Bill Musick, executive director of Maitri Residential Care for Peo-

ple Living with AIDS, spoke to the changing reality of the epidemic as exemplified in the new name and mission of his organization. The organization recently began accepting as clients people living with AIDS who need intensive care but are fairly stable — for example, someone living with AIDS dementia — and people who might need around-the-clock care to stabilize and possibly improve their health.

He cautioned that although the epidemic may be entering a changed era, "[I] would be cautious linking that to an era where we are not seeing people dying of AIDS."

In fact, he said, a Maitri resident did die of AIDS last week, and 25 of the 44 people admitted since January have died.

Guy Vandenberg, director of external programs at Continuum HIV Day Services (a program of the agency initiated one and a half year ago focusing on the Tenderloin neighborhood) cautioned that "the folks who are dying are

not necessarily B.A.R. readers."

For example, the first death of a client of the outreach program was a man who died alone, sitting in a chair, in a Tenderloin residence hotel. He had no one to write his obituary.

"Yes there are less deaths, but it doesn't mean they are not dying, they are just dying in a different community," he said.

Perhaps most importantly for B.A.R. readers, the lack of obituaries gives a respite from the grief. After years of marches and fundraisers, an explosion of AIDS service organizations that may still not be meeting needs, increased government funding after years of neglect, and the literal institutionalization of the epidemic, this development may be a short pause on what is still a very long road ahead.

As AIDS activist Jeff Getty cautioned, "We still don't have this thing under control. We've just slowed it down a little bit." ▼

Anti-CUAV case

◀ page 1

counter with Brenner and another partner while Brenner was allegedly high. He claims Brenner pushed him, "plunging me into a plate glass door," and leaving a glass shard impaled in his forearm. Nevaer said he bit Brenner's hand after the former partner "pushed me and put his hand over my mouth."

Brenner filed a police report about the incident after being treated at Davies Medical Center.

Nevaer said he didn't bother to file a report, but just told police the incident was "a horrible accident."

'That's not the point'

Although CUAV social worker Greg Merrill initially told Nevaer that its advocate "did not offer written or verbal testimony," the agency later acknowledged that the female advocate had violated CUAV guidelines and did make an incorrect and unsworn statement to the court indicating that Nevaer had assaulted Brenner on March 17, 1998 after the temporary order had been issued.

Nevaer said his former lover went to CUAV after Brenner was tossed out of a private South of Market sex club on March 14 — because of drug possession —

where he "had stalked" Nevaer, and that a police report was filed about the incident.

Although CUAV admits its error in the case, the agency insists it has correctly identified the victim in the alleged domestic violence case, and is serving the appropriate party.

"Without going into detail, our client advocate did make a statement about an alleged incident of violence against our client after a temporary restraining order was served," said CUAV Executive Director Lester Olmstead-Rose.

Olmstead-Rose told the B.A.R. that the statement made in court by the client advocate was "not privileged and not defamation."

"It was a mistake. It was an error and we corrected that error in a letter to Mr. Nevaer apologizing for that. That's not the point," Olmstead-Rose said.

He said the agency thoroughly trains client advocates and that they are skilled in assessing whether a client is a victim or primary aggressor.

Although several other alleged victims of Brenner have contacted the agency for assistance, they have been told they must seek help elsewhere, due to the agency's conflict of interest.

In a written statement to the court, Brenner accused Nevaer of stalking him, harassing him with phone calls, attempting to defame

his character, and forcing him to have sex without a condom.

Besides the alleged forced sex, Brenner told the courts the alleged 1997 attack by Nevaer was the only incident of physical violence.

Nevaer has denied the allegations and filed a criminal complaint against Brenner for attempted theft, business fraud, and extortion. He also said his one-time lover tried to run him down in April, but charges were not pursued because of a lack of evidence in the case following a police investigation.

What a tangled website

In a related incident, Nevaer and a group calling itself Victims of CUAV Legal Defense Fund was recently told by an attorney for McCutchen, Doyle, Brown, and Enersen that CUAV owned the exclusive rights and trademark to the agency's name and the mark CUAV and that continued use of CUAV in the organization's name, letterhead, signature, literature and advertising — or Nevaer's use of the World Wide Web domain name "cuav.org" — would draw swift legal action.

The law firm dismissed claims that the cuav.org website was formed, as Nevaer claims, on behalf of a Mexican organization "Chiapas Unidos Ante la Violencia." ▼

ATTENTION MEN WHO ARE HIV POSITIVE

Consumer Research Associates, a market research firm, is conducting a study among men who are HIV positive. This is not a medical study. Qualified participant will receive \$100.00 for their time. If interested, please call (415) 403-0328.

HIV COMMUNITY FORUM: "INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE 1998: UPDATE ON WASTING AND BODY COMPOSITION CHANGES."

by

RICHARD CAZEN, MD

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BAY AREA REPORTER

House denies adoptions, needle exchange to DC

by Bob Roehr

The far right took another swipe at lesbians and gays on the floor of the House of Representatives on Friday, August 7, members' last day of business before summer recess. By a vote of 227 to 192, they forbade unmarried couples from adopting children in the District of Columbia, a move widely seen as anti-gay.

The district is a frequent target of such amendments because of the unique authority Congress has over its day-to-day matters. Other votes that day prohibited the use of federal and local funds for needle exchange programs (250 to 169), and set up a limited voucher program for primary education (214 to 208). Battles over restrictions on abortions are an annual event on the district's appropriations bill.

"It might give some gay rights activist a warm feeling to see gay couples treated just as if they were married," said principal sponsor Representative Steve Largent (R-Oklahoma) in heated debate. "But these are kids. ... It is simply wrong to turn them into trophies from the culture war, to exploit them in order to make some political point."

Representative Chet Edwards (D-Texas) countered that the amendment would "allow a phi-

lander married husband who abuses his wife on a regular basis to be able to legally adopt a child." But it would prevent "two nuns [who] felt God's calling [from] adopt[ing] a disabled, blind child from Romania."

Heather Wilson (R-New Mexico), elected to Congress only six weeks ago, had previously served as the state cabinet secretary for child welfare. "This amendment is an example of how bad cases can make bad laws. ... [It] points out why we should not deal with these kinds of complex issues in an appropriations bill." She urged local autonomy for making decisions "on a case-by-case basis at the best interest of each and every child."

Local advocates had worked closely with Appropriations Committee members to block these actions at lower levels. On July 30, openly gay Representative Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona) had spoken movingly of a gay couple who had adopted children from Russia. Chair Robert Livingston (R-Louisiana) had denied a request for a roll call vote on the amendment, while Traditional Values Coalition (TVC) lobbyist Andrea Sheldon had glared from the sidelines.

The TVC subsequently issued a press release in which Sheldon called Livingston "a fraud ... more concerned with currying political favors with the left than he is about doing what is right." The cat fight exploded in telephone exchanges between the two and in the New Orleans press, with Livingston charging that Sheldon "doesn't understand the legislative process."

The religious right had one more chance, on the floor of the House where they could get a recorded vote of all members. The high water mark on the Hefley amendment just days earlier eroded on both sides of the aisle as 37

Democrats joined 190 Republicans to pass the adoption amendment.

Boxer to the rescue?

Carl Schmid, a local advocate and member of Log Cabin, was disappointed with the outcome. But he pointed out that only 10 Republicans were necessary to win, if the Democrats held together. He delivered 30.

A number of legislators, such as Livingston, felt the political heat from the right and sought relief by voting for the provision. But the tone has changed from years past. Now, far fewer members are willing to make speeches that bash gays. Instead they quietly vote, not so much because they believe in the issue as because they continue to fear political retributions from the far right.

And in truth, the vote has more symbolic than practical effect. The Senate Appropriations Committee already has passed the district's budget bill without these amendments. While the TVC has not pressed for amendments on the floor of the Senate in the past, it still has that option. Schmid believes that Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California) would be willing to filibuster, and that threat may be enough to deter consideration of amendments as Congress presses to wrap up business in September. Thus, the House amendments may well disappear in conference.

The White House has indicated its displeasure with all three amendments as an infringement on local home rule, though it has not publicly pledged a veto over the adoption provision. And even if the measure does go into effect, it only applies to unmarried couples. Individual lesbians and gays in Washington still would be able to adopt should the court decide, as with each adoption, that it is in the best interest of the child. ▼

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NEW TRIAL

The perils of Hormel

by Bob Roehr

The long-stalled nomination of James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg made news yet again in the August 5 issue of *The Hill*, a newspaper covering the Capitol.

It reported that Senator Gordon Smith (R-Oregon) had lobbied members at the GOP policy luncheon the previous week. He handed out copies of letters from Hormel responding to charges that the nominee is anti-Catholic, as well as letters of support from the head of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of San Francisco and other non-Catholic religious leaders. Smith was one of only two members of the Foreign Relations Committee who attended Hormel's confirmation hearing.

Hormel's chief antagonist, Senator Tim Hutchinson (R-Arkansas) wasn't buying it. Hutchinson admitted that he was troubled by the nominee's lifestyle, but claimed that "Hormel's being gay was not an

issue." He maintains that the nominee is anti-Catholic for refusing to denounce the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a San Francisco political action and social service group that dresses in variations of nun's habits. Thus he has placed a "hold" on the nomination.

Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Mississippi) has the authority to lift the hold and move the nomination to a vote. But in what could be a major development, Hutchinson said he would not filibuster, or stall a vote, if Lott informed him that the nomination was being placed on the calendar for action. "I'd make a statement about my concerns," said Hutchinson. "My whole point is that there are issues here that should be examined. I just don't believe that Mr. Hormel is an appropriate choice."

Democrats, and more than enough Republicans to close off a filibuster, have indicated their willingness to move for a vote on the nomination when they return in September. The pressure on Lott for action continues to build. ▼

Congress rejects anti-gay Hefley amendment

by Bob Roehr

The gay and lesbian community won a huge victory in the House of Representatives, and the homophobic right suffered an even greater defeat, late in the evening of Wednesday, August 5. The amendment introduced by Republican Representative Joel Hefley of Colorado, which would have rolled back President Clinton's executive order standardizing protection for gays and lesbians in the federal workplace, went down to a crushing 252 to 176 defeat.

Perhaps the most striking thing about the proceedings were the strong voices of some conservatives in opposition to the amendment during debate on the floor of the House.

"Homosexuals are taxpayers too, and deserve an even break in employment in a federal government that they pay taxes for," said Californian Dana Rohrabacher (R-Huntington Beach).

Representative Tom Bliley (R-Virginia), the powerful chairman of the Commerce Committee, added, "If a person does an honest day's work for an honest day's pay, that's all I can ask."

Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), thought that Bliley's message "resonated with a lot of his colleagues."

Both congressmen have 100 percent ratings from the American Conservative Union.

Supporters of the Hefley amendment claimed that the executive order would lead to affirmative action, quotas, and "special rights" for homosexuals. But few chose to defend that position in debate.

Demographics

Democrats contributed 188 votes and Republicans 63 votes in defeating the amendment.

Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, was pleasantly surprised by the Republican vote. "We were solid with about 45 with us, and about 18 came on who were waiverers."

California Republicans split 11-11-1, while an 8-7 majority of Florida Republicans opposed Hefley. Tafel credits that to the efforts of Representative Mark Foley (R-West Palm Beach). Foley has been the subject of attempted "outings" as being gay, but he declines to speak on the subject.

The 15 Democrats who supported the Hefley amendment were overwhelmingly white males from the former Confederacy, a mix of old and new members of Congress. In fact, the hard core of support from both parties came from the old South and up into the mountain states. It seems that opposition to gay rights is as much a matter of geography and culture as it is one of partisan politics. "Demographics are more important than party affiliation," said Tafel. "It really locks in, in the South."

In 1993 several Oklahoma congressmembers proclaimed that they would not knowingly hire lesbians or gays for their office staff. That led the HRC to seek written pledges from all members of Congress that they would not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in their own employment practices.

Stachelberg said the vote on Hefley mirrored that pattern of pledges they have received, "Maybe not on a one-for-one ratio, but it was pretty close."

Tafel noted that they lost 21 of the 75 Republicans who had made such a pledge. Most cited concerns about possible affirmative action. But for some, their vote may have been tempered by fear of the reli-

gious right on their individual political futures within the party. Nine Republicans who have not made a statement on personal employment voted against Hefley.

it will be by only a slim margin, likely less than the number of defections on this vote. So continued Republican support would be necessary to pass pro-gay legislation. Stachelberg sees this vote as "a good first step toward getting a read on where people will be over time on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA)."

Tafel said, "It is very clear that

"The Hefley vote is particularly encouraging within the recent anti-gay advertising campaign ... it shows how even a conservative Congress can hear the call from America for fairness and can resist pressure from political and religious extremists."

Celebration

"It was an incredible victory, it certainly is historic," said Stachelberg. "It is the first time the House of Representatives, and a fairly conservative House at that, has made clear that discrimination against gays and lesbians is not to be tolerated."

The White House issued a statement in which Clinton said, "This vote reflects the values of our nation. The American people believe in fairness, not discrimination."

"The Hefley vote is particularly encouraging within the recent anti-gay advertising campaign and comments by Reggie White, Gary Bauer, and Senator Trent Lott," said Sky Johnson, director of policy and public affairs at the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center. "It shows how even a conservative Congress can hear the call from America for fairness and can resist pressure from political and religious extremists."

Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director, believes that "Religious political groups and their congressional allies overreached," and that Americans do not support their agenda for discrimination.

"We hope this takes some of the wind out of the sails of the right wing and their anti-gay crusade," added Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). "However, with the November elections looming, it is doubtful their campaign of intolerance and mean-spiritedness will go away."

Daniel McGlinchey, interim executive director of the National Stonewall Democratic Federation, said, "The Democrats carried the day," pointing to the fact that 92 percent of Democrats and only 28 percent of Republicans opposed the amendment.

But Stachelberg called it, "A good example of how in order to move forward issues that affect the gay and lesbian community, we must do that in a bipartisan way."


Republicans currently control the House. Even if Democrats do regain control in the next election,

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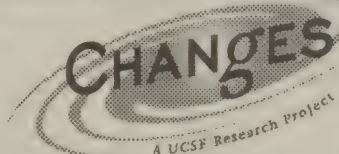
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NIH invests \$2.7M in fusion inhibitor

by Mike Salinas

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded a \$2,730,000 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to Progenics Pharmaceuticals, to support continued clinical evaluation of its anti-HIV fusion inhibitor PRO 542 and other related therapies, the company announced Tuesday, August 11.

"NIAID's continued funding of PRO 542, Progenics' lead HIV therapeutic, is a strong endorsement of our effort to develop innovative products for HIV infection," said Progenics President Ronald J. Prentki. "We are delighted that independent leaders in the HIV field share our enthusiasm on the therapeutic promise of this novel antiviral compound."

Progenics has initiated separate dose-escalation Phase I/II trials of PRO 542 in HIV-infected adults and children. The study in adults is currently ongoing at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. Preliminary results from the trial, reported at the Bio '98 International Biotechnology Meeting in June, show excellent tolerability and favorable pharmacokinetic parameters that warrant continued clinical development. The trials continue to

enroll patients at the higher dose levels. A second multi-center trial of PRO 542 is being conducted in children at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, the University of California at San Francisco, and the University of Pennsylvania under the sponsorship of the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group of NIAID. Both studies will measure the tolerability, pharmacokinetics, immunogenicity, and preliminary antiviral activity of PRO 542 in these patient populations.

PRO 542 is a fusion protein that incorporates the HIV-binding region of the cell surface receptor (CD4) into a human antibody molecule. It is designed to bind to the gp120 protein on the HIV envelope and neutralize the virus by two mechanisms: pre-

venting HIV from binding to the cell surface; and, detaching gp120 from the HIV envelope, thereby inactivating the virus. Viral gp120 is required for attachment of HIV to target cells. In preclinical studies, PRO 542 has been shown to potentially neutralize a wide range of clinical HIV strains from all geographic regions. In an animal model of HIV infection, PRO 542 protected against infection by clinically relevant isolates of HIV. The company has entered into an agreement with Genzyme Transgenics Corporation to produce PRO 542 in the milk of transgenic animals.

In addition to PRO 542, the company is developing a follow-on HIV product, PRO 367, which is expected to commence Phase I/II trials later this year. ▼

FDA nears approval of new drug to keep PWAs seeing clearly

by Bob Roehr

An advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended approval of fomivirsen (trade name Vitra-vene) for the treatment of cytomegalovirus retinitis (CMVr), an opportunistic infection of advanced stage AIDS. The 5 to 2 vote came at a meeting near Washington, D.C. July 22.

CMV retinitis is a disease of the eye that causes progressive scarring of the retina and loss of sight. It cannot be reversed, but successful therapy can hold the infection in check and prevent further deterioration of vision. Five drugs already are approved for therapy, but all have disadvantages in terms of their use or side effects, and some patients have developed viral resistance to one of more of those therapies.

Fomivirsen is a new class of drug known as antisense oligonucleotides. Dr. Daniel L. Kisner, president of Isis Pharmaceuticals, which developed the drug, explained that it "works one step further back in the process" than existing therapies to inhibit reproduction. It "binds to messenger RNA" of the CMVr when it divides to reproduce, and so prevents its replication.

He compared its effectiveness to one of the leading drugs currently approved to treat CMVr, calling it "at least 10- to 30- or 40-fold more potent than ganciclovir on a micromolar basis." And because it works differently, "there is no cross-resistance" to approved therapies. Fomivirsen is injected directly into the eyeball on a regular basis to prevent development of CMVr.

Effective enough?

Ironically, the good news of protease inhibitor therapy has hampered development of this drug and other drugs targeting HIV-related opportunistic infections. Because people are healthier, they are less likely to suffer

from opportunistic infections, including CMVr, greatly shrinking the pool of potential patients to enroll in clinical trials.

The FDA initially suggested that it was premature for the company to submit fomivirsen for approval, according to FDA medical officer Dr. Wiley Chambers, "but with the inability to recruit additional patients [recently, only about one a month], additional progress was not being made." The agency accepted that reality, although it would have liked a larger patient sample.

Identifying and reading the progression or non-progression of CMVr is a difficult task open to subjective readings of high-powered photos of the eye. Chambers interpreted the Isis trial data more conservatively than did the company.

He agreed that the product showed efficacy, but was not as convinced of its magnitude. Because the studies were "under-powered," with smaller than desired numbers of participants, he said it only takes a couple of patients "to have a tremendous impact" on the interpretation of data.

The committee grappled with this fact. Dr. Christopher Mathews, from the University of California at San Diego Medical Center, concluded, "I don't think you will ever see a comparison trial [of CMVr] with numbers that will be convincing," because of the decline in opportunistic infections.

Kevin Frost, director of clinical trials for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), and the patient representative on the panel, was a forceful advocate for approval. He argued against any restrictions on labeling, "That only sets up hurdles that patients have to overcome," especially with third-party payers.

The recommendation of approval by the committee is likely to be followed by the FDA, and Vitra-vene should become available in the fall. ▼

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HIV PERSPECTIVE

Geneva AIDS Conference: New AIDS therapies offer new hope

by Matthew Sharp, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

This is another report from the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

Although the Geneva World AIDS Conference focused little on new therapies for HIV, there was a scattering of less exciting, yet important reports of new drugs in early testing. Talk of new targets for drug delivery was probably bigger news, but certainly therapies in this area are much further away.

In the old days of the epidemic, before protease inhibitors, conference members, the media, and especially people with AIDS anxiously awaited news of promising new treatments at AIDS conferences. But today we are experiencing a slowing in drug development which was certainly apparent in Geneva. Industry and research institutions have deferred development for various reasons, which do not offer hope to those who need new treatments. AIDS is not over, and we clearly need development of new generations that may not be cross resistant, new targets to add therapies to the present armamentarium, and new drug delivery systems with easier dosing schedules.

Encouragingly, news of the immune system and immune-based therapies such as IL-2 received more attention than at past conferences. (See last week's *Health Perspective*.) Combination therapies are lowering viral load and partially restoring immune function which can allow for immune based therapies to be safely studied.

Protease inhibitors

In the protease inhibitor (PI) arena, two new drugs are reaching clinical importance in terms of efficacy. In 24 weeks of data on 32 people, Abbott's ABT-378 was shown to lower viral levels below 400 copies in all participants. The drug has to be administered with its sister drug Ritonavir at 100 mg. twice a day to reach appropriate blood levels. Patients in the study had never been on PIs before the study. It will be interesting to see how this no-name Abbott drug will play out in other people who have taken other PIs. Also, with the current Ritonavir production problem, Abbott has a lot to answer for since the two drugs must be used together.

Pharmacia Upjohn has a new

PI with a catchy name: Tipranivir. In a small Phase I/II study, three doses of the drug were studied with "background" antivirals, with 10 pills three times a day as the current formulation; 1500 mg. proved to lower viral load best by 1. to 1.3 logs. The most common side effect was diarrhea, which was managed with over-the-counter diarrhea medication. The company has made overtures in improving the current high volume regimen, but there is no confirmation of this report. Upjohn is also bragging that the drug is not cross resistant, but there is only four weeks of data showing no new mutations developing, not enough to verify resistance.

Both drugs will prove they are worth something if they bring virus levels down in heavily treated folks in larger, longer studies. Now they are in the "me-too" category of PIs that may not do much good for anyone.

DMP-450 by Triangle Pharmaceuticals and PD-178390 by Bristol Myers Squibb were other reports of other new PI drugs in Phase I to keep your eyes on.

New generations

FTC (not 3TC) is another drug being developed by Triangle Pharmaceuticals. It is a different, more potent version of 3TC. However, the same mutation caused by 3TC is seen with FTC, but fortunately it only has to be taken once a day. If you have taken 3TC, this may not be an option for you. Results of a Phase I trial demonstrated up to a 2 logs drop and was well tolerated.

FddA is a new generation analog of ddI. Phase I/II studies show the drug also would only need to be taken once a day and doesn't require the buffer that causes much of ddI's side effects. Less diarrhea is good news with any new therapy.

The non-nucleoside S-1153, another no-name drug made by Lexigen Pharmaceuticals has a 10 times more potent effect than the two approved NNRTIs (non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor), nevirapine and delavirdine. In this Phase I dose escalation study no other NNRTIs or PIs were allowed. Average viral load decrease was 1.74 logs in 28 days of treatment. No doubt, people who have never been on nevirapine and delavirdine will probably have the best outcome with this drug. Unfortunately data was not collected on prior use of NNRTIs in the participants.

Another NNRTI that has

been synthesized from the rain forest is Calanolide-A. There was little information from the Phase I study on virus inhibition with this drug, but it stays in the blood stream for 20 hours. Data showed that the drug was tolerated better than current available NNRTIs. However, some side effects such as dizziness, headache, and nausea were reported.

Gilead, the maker of the befuddled drug Preveon, currently available in expanded access, has a new generation of their nucleotide analog PMPA. The drug has to be taken only once a day and showed 2.1 log virus drop in 28 days. Although the potency of this drug appears to be better than Preveon, more data will be needed to prove it is durable and tolerable. The troubling kidney problems seen after several months of Preveon treatment will hopefully not be seen with PMPA. Company officials swear that there is currently no cross resistance with Preveon in viral isolates.

New targets=bull's-eye?

New targets are becoming possible therapeutic options for future drug development. As more is learned about how HIV attaches to, invades, and destroys cells, more targets can be discovered, but unfortunately only if there is appropriate interest and profit motive in the pharmaceutical industry.

There are new targets in virus attachment such as Trimeric fusion inhibitor T-20. Early studies show substantial anti-viral activity with an increase in CD4 counts. Unfortunately this drug has to be delivered through subcutaneous needle injections, similar to insulin treatment in diabetes. The company is aggressively working with the community in developing early clinical trials. (See related story on another fusion inhibitor, facing page.)

Chemokine receptors are being considered for new anti-HIV treatments, to target virus entry points such as CCR2, CCR5, and CXCR4, but none have entered clinical trials to date and there are theoretical concerns and problems with use of agents that block these targets.

The integrase enzyme is another target with little pharmaceutical interest. Gag, regulatory, and accessory proteins offer zinc finger antagonists. Tat, Rev, Vif, Vpr, Vpu, Nef gene targets are very far off in development.

Confusion and complications grow as more drugs are developed in this post-Geneva era. Of course newer drugs mean more side effects, more drug interactions, and more mutations occurring in the virus. Clinical trials are becoming more difficult to design and enroll as more patients use up and "fail" existing drugs. But, given all the possibilities more drugs may also give the people who have used all their options another chance to restore immunity and slow virus production and ultimately may prove to extend life. Researchers and the industry must continue to develop new modalities in order for the progress we've made to continue. ▼



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Gay man sues Yankees

United Press International

A gay New York City man is calling the New York Yankees the Bronx gay-bashers. Paul Priore, an equipment manager with the Yankees in 1996, has filed a \$165 million bias suit

against the team. He says he was the butt of threats and anti-gay jokes by players and was fired because he contracted HIV.

Yankees spokesman Rick Cerrone says the suit is baseless. Relief pitcher Jeff Nelson — one of the players named in the suit — calls it "sad." ▼

Iced

by Jim Provenzano

It's so nice to have visited Amsterdam, knowing I have no need to return. In the words of Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz*, "He got away! He got away!"

Let's continue with the main snafu of Gay Games V in that Dutch city whose name I don't want to repeat. Don't worry, by the time I get back stateside, I'll definitely have some nice stories to tell.

Figure Skating: the non-event. The setting was appropriate; while gargantuan yellow ducts pumped cool air into the arena, a bouncy rendition of "Brazil" played over the loudspeakers, cheering the audience into submission for what was supposed to be the largest, most-popular competition of all Gay Games events, but which was changed to a "public performance."

The skaters were this season's sacrificial lamb. It seems the wrestlers (see last week) were just chum, while the swimmers were dolphins caught in the tuna nets (next week).

Prominently displayed as the cause celebre of the season, queer

paired skaters are the ones breaking down the boundaries of same-sex sport, and doing it beautifully. However, as local Dutch hosts and anyone with a microphone in a large auditorium proclaimed, the International Skating Union refused to sanction the event, supposedly because of the ISU's "homophobia."

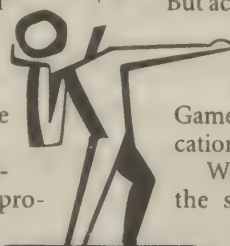
But according to a July 29 letter from ISU General Secretary Fredi Schmid to the Gay Games organizers, no application was submitted.

Whatever the reason for the snafu, there were no medals for the figure skaters who toiled for years to show their best. They showed it, all right, but at a "public practice" instead of a real competition.

There were excellent performers, including Thomas Hammond from Minneapolis, who wore a fab black and white unitard during his solo turn. "I think in some respects it was really discouraging," he said between pants after his performance. "But there were some positive aspects."

Four years to get it together

"I think that the Dutch Royal Skating Union didn't take the



Sports Complex



Gratuitous beefcake: triathletes at the Gay Games.

measures they should have taken to regulate an ISU-sanctioned event," Hammond said. "The Federation has four years to do it for Sydney. They really should get it together."

Hello, Feds, are you listening, or have you all flown back to Roma 3? Following the rules are standard for these athletes, but the same rules don't apply to their hosts, and the Federation seems less concerned.

Controversy still lingers after the pompous statement by Media Director Paul van Yperen, who, when asked when people would be reimbursed for the canceled figure skating event, he said that he would think no one would ask for a refund, "in support of our cause."

'Cause... why?

Sure enough, Gay Games "Friends" were asking for more money to support the cause on the way out of the evening, even though those people had already

paid for this "public practice" of practicing homos. At least this time I got to sneak by the lady with the Playtex Living Gloves guarding the toilet, to take a free piss.

I avoided the chain-smoking "Friends" hawking T-shirts and managed to get outside to talk with Louis Vachon of San Francisco (but born and raised in Montreal), also a solo figure skater, who looked radiant while holding a bouquet under the glorious full moon.

"It was fine," Vachon said of the evening. "I guess maybe less pressure and more fun, but still disappointing that we didn't get to have a competition. It's great to be here, though. Five friends I was skating for came who had never seen me skate."

But since this was his first and possibly last Gay Games, he said, "It was a let-down that I didn't get to compete."

His take on the problem? "We've been hearing different things, but the Gay Games organization didn't follow through with all the things that needed to be done for the competition."

How did Vachon feel amid the announcements that the event was canceled, after a Gay Games dignitary complimented the skaters for not "running away" (unlike the deposed zakkenrolling Director, Marc Janssens, accused of bilked the contracts by a few million guilders)?

"At one point I felt like we were not part of Gay Games anymore, since we were no longer an official sport," Vachon said. "The whole point is about fun, skating and entertaining our friends." These are the words of a true hero.

But nevertheless, a hero with critiques. "It's silly. They've had four years to get ready, and then a week before, there's no sanctions, when everybody's already trained, paid for planes, costumes. I don't know if someone's going to get to the bottom of it to find out what happened; homophobia from the ISU? I don't think it was that. I think it was mostly the Gay Games not saying the truth. There was no fee paid."

Treadmarks on the rainbow

Also attending the figure skating "non-event" was Gilles Pettigrew, co-chair of the Federation of Gay Games. When I interviewed him two years ago, he assured me that all of these problems would not happen.

They did.

And like many Federation members, he was evasive about

addressing Gay Games Amsterdam's failure to do their homework. "It's a beautiful way of solving a solution that is very difficult."

Yes, it's difficult seeing people with whom you've contracted fail to do their job, isn't it? Can you say "breach of contract," in either Dutch, French or perhaps monetary Eurodollars?

Will the Federation do anything to rectify the mistakes and rip-offs the Dutch pulled on us? I don't see Janssens as the only criminal (assuming, of course, that reports are true). I see him as the only one who got caught.

Certainly joyous and fun days were had by thousands, and we all enjoyed sharing bits of cultural jokes, kisses, hugs and souvenirs. But even so, by Closing Ceremonies, the point was quite clear to anyone who stuck around: Gay Games V was not only an insult to many, but a sad disappointment for more.

By weekend, most of the Europeans had wisely left town. Anyone who trekked to the vacuous ArenA for the extra-tired Closing Ceremonies was shoved into lines like detainees for Buchenwald, then rushed across the stage, again in separate contingents, with North America on one side and the rest of the world on the other, we all sat and waited for 45 minutes for our evening's entertainment: Bananarama; some obscure Dutch singer; and once again... direct from their last gig at Rumours in Charlotte, North Carolina... the Weather Girls!!

The one truly inspiring sight of the minimalist display (which included about two minutes of actual footage of athletes from the week, but which was of course blocked by the "festive" array of pink triangles that were hung in the ArenA) was of the shimmering Montreal male pairs couple performing a rollerblade version of their routine, with one visual element that remained a theme for the week: crucifixion. The two silver gods of skating were raised up, arms out, and displayed as the *martyrs du jour*.

But yes! More for "you people" — as the emcee called us: a series of bicycles, mopeds, and tiny cars ambled across the strip of stage on a rainbow flag.

Yes, folks, on the rainbow flag. Not with, under, or along. The Dutch rode their cars right over us. To make the point even more clear, the robotic drag queen belated that it was all a "joke."

Joke is the word. In Dutch, it means "you have been had." ▼

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SPORTS

Gay Games V wrestling: an ironic qualified success

by Gene Dermody

San Francisco's Golden Gate Wrestling Club (GGWC) and New York's METRO Wrestlers dominated the Gay Games tournament in Amsterdam, with 17 and 10 medals respectively, of approximately 50 awarded in all, in a field of about 90 wrestlers. GGWC, with 25 entries, corralled five Bronze, five Silver, and seven Gold, in a dominant show of force in almost all weight categories.

The overall quality of the wrestling was excellent. The 152# >35 (152 pounds; over 35 years old) pool "A" was especially competitive, pitting Gay Games IV champ Alan Posey against fellow San Franciscan teammate Bryan Northam. New York's Ed Lindsay repeated his Gay Games IV Bronze in this same bracket again, against both Posey and Northam.

At 138# >35, it was another teammate confrontation, with Gay Games IV champs New Yorkers Michael Ognibene and Joe Knapp battling it out, with Philadelphia's Rick Van Tassell again repeating his Gay Games IV Bronze in this same division.

Other exciting performances were given by New Yorkers Gary Bertonis at 168# >35, and Michael Faraci at 138# <35. In a surprise reversal, San Francisco's Erich Richter at 128# >35 upset returning Gay Games IV Gold medalist, Philadelphia's (now Cologne's) Bob Lubarsky. Tampa's Todd Fixler at 138# <35 was also very impressive, as was Philadelphia's Stormy Weather (I am not making this up).

In a very emotional and physical comeback, San Francisco's Ace Rocek broke a record by repeating his Gay Games III and IV

Gold Medal performance at the same weight class, looking cool, calm, and collected, as he barely broke a sweat.

With the absence of GGWC's 85 kg. wrestler, who missed his flight, this writer stepped in at the last minute (and up a weight category) to fill the slot, earning a Bronze by pinning four opponents in under two minutes, and completing his dream of having wrestled his personal best in every Gay Games since 1982 (with two Bronze and two silver to show for it).

The long list of San Francisco standouts includes Rafael Cruz Rivera (Gold), John Merciadiez (Silver), Erich Richter (Gold), Pete DuBois (Bronze), Jim Provenzano (Bronze), Zeke Cessna, Rick Weeks (Silver), Gene Dermody (Bronze), Ross Schmidt (4th.), Russ Smith (4th.), Juanito Pontejos, Rochelle Robinson (Gold), Tekla Balukas (Bronze), Alex Nachman, Tony Tapia (Gold), Helen Vozenilek (Gold), Pete Carroll, Jim Longo, Dean Takehara, Johnny Almony (Bronze), and Barbara Arms (Silver).

Hostility to friendship

Given the inexperience of the tournament directors, referees, and pairing officials, the wrestling was a qualified success in spite of the problems, thanks to the integrity of the wrestlers, and the wisdom of the tournament director to effect compromise when faced with unanimous hostility—not only from the wrestlers, but from the head referee, and knowledgeable media people present. Poor officiating, poor pairings, unheard-of rules, etc., was the order of the day.

Ironically these problems inadvertently succeeded in fulfilling



Grappling with success: the Golden Gate Wrestling Club

Amsterdam's motto: "Friendship Through Culture and Sport." The wrestlers did find friendship in sport. The "game-face" ice broke early, even among the bitterest rivals, and the competition saw wrestlers from different teams intermixed on the floor of the "pit" encouraging each other.

Most of the problem can be blamed on "cultural" differences in default assumptions about what "flavor" of the FILA rules were to be used. Again, the reinvention of the wheel reared its ugly head, as a host city tried to be "different" with something that they should not have been meddling with. When will they ever learn?

In short, Amsterdam hoped to skate through this venue as quickly and cheaply as possible. There was far more attention, money,

and proper information afforded even the least of the cultural events, than was given to one of the 30 core required sports, wrestling.

The losers in this whole affair were the European wrestlers, who lost a golden opportunity to showcase their talent, and also the very talented Tigertje wrestlers of Amsterdam, who were cheated by the stupid pairings (which were done by the order the wrestlers stood in line to be weighed!), and were forced out of medal contention far too early. Gay Games V Wrestling was more American, more male, and less well attended than Gay Games IV. This problem must be laid at the feet of an arrogant, incompetent, and defensive Amsterdam organization that talked the PC line big time, but didn't follow through. It was the

rank unathletic focus of Vancouver Gay Games III all over again. (The other scandals are best left to other writers.)

The really class performance of the day that epitomized what sportsmanship and Gay Games is really all about occurred during the medal ceremony. It was the spontaneous selfless act of San Francisco's Robert LeBeau, who when hearing that he had (mistakenly) won the Gold, immediately bestowed it on New York's Gary Bertonis, the true winner. At that moment, all of the murky frustrations and anger of the day melted away, as the wrestlers gave it a standing ovation over the befuddled protestations of the confused tournament officials, who had screwed up some eight medal awards.

In closing, the most important, and most enduring consequence, was the strong camaraderie that cascaded among the wrestlers, as the grueling tournament wore on; although FILA rules preclude more than four matches, many athletes wrestled six or seven matches. Even in the heat of battle, the common bureaucratic adversary became the focus of the high spirits and morale of these "comrades in arms." New friendships were forged, and older ones renewed. I was strangely elated, and experienced a *déjà vu* I have not felt since Gay Games I in San Francisco, 16 years ago. ▼

Gene Dermody is the coach of Golden Gate Wrestling Club, and the Federation of Gay Games Sports Chair for Wrestling. He is filing a three-page report to the Federation about the problems in Amsterdam.

Episcopal conference denigrates gays

by Bob Roehr

Homosexuals should be ready to repent. They are not born homosexuals, they make themselves homosexuals," said Nigerian bishop Emmanuel Chukwuma. "They are misusing the free will of God." He offered to "cast out the demons of homosexuality" from Richard Kirker with the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.

It was not the type of encounter westerners have come to

expect from the Episcopal Church, long in the vanguard of mainstream denominations in integrating American lesbians and gays into the life of the Church. But the face of that institution is changing with the explosion of evangelical growth in Africa and Asia. Bishops from those regions now outnumber those from the western nations.

That became abundantly clear at the Lambeth Conference, near Canterbury, England. The three week, once a decade, gathering of bishops from around the world

concluded Saturday, August 8.

The conference debated for two hours, then rejected compromise committee language on homosexuality. Instead it adopted a series of amendments by fundamentalist bishops from Africa and Asia which called homosexual activity a sin "incompatible with Scripture." It also rejected both the ordination of gays and same-sex marriage. The final resolution passed 526-70, with 45 abstentions.

Many of the non-western bishops claimed that they needed the hard line to assist in their recruit-

ment and competition against other non-Christian religions. However, they were also able to "interpret" the Bible in a manner to prevent any resolution that condemned polygamy from even appearing on the agenda.

Among those abstaining from the final vote was Frank Griswold, the presiding bishop or titular head of the American branch of the Episcopal Church. When elected to that office earlier this year, he was seen as bridging both the liberal and conservative wings of that body. But his abstention on this issue has raised grave doubts among some gay Episcopalians.

"The homophobia in that room was dreadful," said David Crawley, Archbishop of Kootenay, Canada.

Bishop Richard Holloway, head of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, said "I can now understand how it feels for gay and lesbian people to be on the edge of this kind of virulent homophobia." He pledged that in Scotland, the Church "will continue to be hospitable."

A hastily drawn letter was released by Ronald Haines, Bishop of Washington, DC, which pledged to gays and lesbians "to reflect, pray, and work for your full inclusion in the life of the

church." Nearly a hundred bishops, primarily from the U.S. and Europe, had signed the letter that is still circulating for support.

Catherine Roskam, an assistant bishop in New York, plans to ignore the Lambeth resolution. "I'm not taking the language of condemnation back to my constituency," she said. "It has rendered itself irrelevant to my work as a bishop." She has that right, as all resolutions are non-binding, each diocese is broadly autonomous within the framework of the Episcopal Church.

John Spong, the notably gay-supportive retiring Bishop of Newark, tried to downplay the long-term impact of the resolution. Ten years ago the Conference was torn over the ordination of women and still has no common policy. But the presence of 11 female bishops this year at Lambeth was an accepted fact. He believes the same process will occur with gays and lesbians.

Western churches, the most liberal faction within the denomination, largely have financed growth of the Church in the third world. It remains to be seen if they, with their seemingly heavily gay membership, will continue to be as financially generous in supporting that expansion. ▼

US court rules against police entrapment

United Press International

A federal appeals court in Boston has ruled that jurors should be able to consider an entrapment defense in cases involving advertisements placed by law enforcement officials seeking to attract sex offenders.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals made the ruling in tossing out the case of a Maine man convicted of crossing state lines for the purpose of having sex with children.

The *Boston Globe* reported Friday, August 7 that Paul George Gamache had been charged after answering an ad in the *Tri-State Swingers* magazine, a Keene, New Hampshire "cybercop" detective who has earned a reputation by posing as children, targeting alleged pedophiles in Internet chat rooms.

McLaughlin's work has resulted in the arrest of more than 70 men on sex charges.

In the magazine ad, McLaughlin posed as a woman, and later in letters with Gamache said "she" wanted Gamache to provide "sex

training" for her young children. The 55-year-old defendant was arrested when he arrived at a Keene motel to meet the woman. He was convicted and sentenced to five years in jail.

The appeals court said that Gamache's only interest was in having sex with the woman, and that it was the police who brought up the subject of sex with children.

The court said: "It was the government that first mentioned the children as sex objects," and that "It was the government that escalated the subject of sex with children." ▼

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STATEMENT FILE NO. 224150

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ness is conducted by an individual signed
Reginald L. Chew. The registrant com-
menced to transact business under the
above-listed fictitious business name or
names on 7/13/98. The statement was filed
with the County Clerk of the City and Coun-
ty of San Francisco, CA on 7/13/98

JULY 16, 23, 30, AUGUST 6, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224136

The following person(s) are doing business
as 16-91 Construction 331A 28th Ave. SF
CA 94121. This business is conducted by an
individual signed Poon Ting Cham. The reg-
istrant commenced to transact business
under the above-listed fictitious business
name or names on 7/10/98. The statement
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and County of San Francisco, CA on
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JULY 16, 23, 30, AUGUST 6, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224023

The following person(s) are doing business
as Trinity Buffet 1169 Market St. #805
SF., CA 94103. This business is conducted
by an individual signed Daisy Li. The regis-
trant commenced to transact business
under the above-listed fictitious business

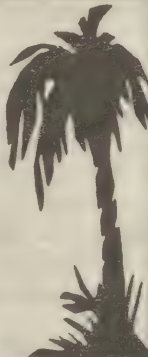
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name or names on, 7/07/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/07/98

JULY 16, 23, 30, AUGUST 6, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224020

The following person(s) are doing business as Tough Gloves 969 Page St. SF., CA 94117. This business is conducted by an corporation signed Bryan Freedman. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 7/07/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/07/98

JULY 16, 23, 30, AUGUST 6, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224022

The following person(s) are doing business as Freelance ARTSTAFF 1169 Market St. Suite 608 SF CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kevin Rummelhart. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 7/07/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/07/98

JULY 16, 23, 30, AUGUST 6, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224152

The following person(s) are doing business as New Millennium Technologies 854 44th Avenue SF., CA 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Shlit Vladislav. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 7/13/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/13/98

JULY 23, 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224274

The following person(s) are doing business as World Wide Wash 300 De Haro St. SF., CA 94107. This business is conducted by an corporation signed Robin Talmadge. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 7/17/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/17/98

JULY 23, 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224251

The following person(s) are doing business as Utopiary 2 Falmouth St #4 SF., CA 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Robert L. Yankowski. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 7/16/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/16/98

JULY 23, 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224224

The following person(s) are doing business as Josephine's Day Care 150 Ankeny St.

SF., CA 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed Josephine Tolbert. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 1/04/97. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/15/98

JULY 23, 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224402

The following person(s) are doing business as Rustica-Castro 4077 18th St. SF., CA 94114. This business is conducted by an limited liability company signed Byron Gougoumis. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 7/22/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/22/98

JULY 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 30, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224344

The following person(s) are doing business as Enhancing Gifts 4802 Geary Blvd, SF., CA 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wayne Hayakawa. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/21/98

JULY 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 30, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224369

The following person(s) are doing business as Ed Hamilton Photography 522 Arkansas St. SF., CA 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Edward J. Hamilton. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/21/98

JULY 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 30, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224366

The following person(s) are doing business as Grand Central Auction Company 1632 A Market St. SF., CA 94102. This business is conducted by an corporation signed Robert McCartney, President. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/21/98

JULY 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 30, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224419

The following person(s) are doing business as Summit Greenery 170 Margaret Ave. SF., CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Dorothy Lautermilch. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/23/98

JULY 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 30, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224449

The following person(s) are doing business as Frisco Tee's 135 10th St. SF., CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Raul Villaseñor. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/16/96. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/24/98

JULY 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 30, 1998

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

JULY 29, 1998. To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: Kuna Claudia Ines. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 41 FRANKLIN St. San Francisco, CA 94102. For the following type of License: 41 ON-SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE. AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224743

The following person(s) are doing business as ASIA Video Media 236 West Portal Ave., #509 SF., CA 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Vincent Lee. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 8/07/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 8/03/98

AUGUST 13, 20, 27 SEPT. 3, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224654

The following person(s) are doing business as 1) North Cal Roofing 2) Nor Cal Roofing 3) Nor-Cal Roofing 4) Northern California Roofing. #1041 Quesada Ave. SF., CA 94124. This business is conducted by an corporation signed John Bailey Inc., President. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 8/03/98

AUGUST 13, 20, 27 SEPT. 3, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224784

The following person(s) are doing business as The Gondola Cafe And Deli. 1485 Bayshore Ave #53 SF., CA 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lloyd J. Lee. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 8/10/98

AUGUST 13, 20, 27 SEPT. 3, 1998

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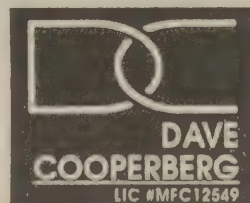
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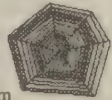
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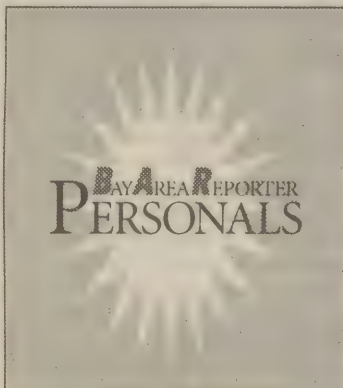
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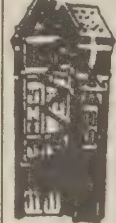


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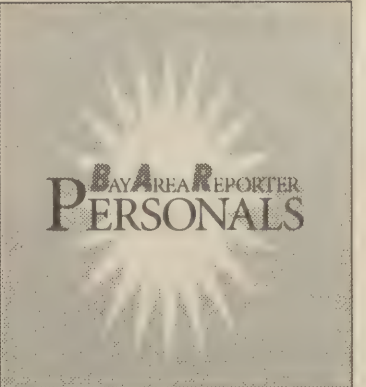
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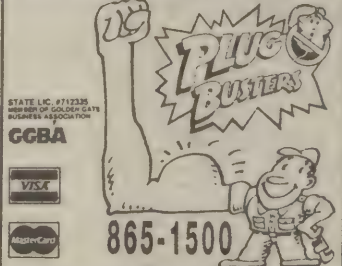
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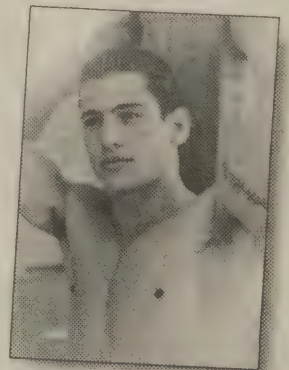
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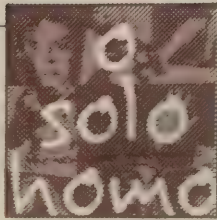


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Bayard Rustin, too gay for the preachers.
page 37

Performance smart
'O Solo Homo' collects
scripts from queer shows.
page 36



Slap that actor!
Aaron Eckhart in 'Your
Friends & Neighbors.'
page 33



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 33 • 13 August 1998

Hot stuff

Aesthetic relief in LA



Le Chaman et ses Créatures,
1965, by Pierre Molinier

by Glen Helfand

Art activity always slows to a near-halt during the summer, but that doesn't mean you can't find something to look at between beach visits on that hot, smoggy LA getaway. At the moment there are a handful of shows down there that provide some aesthetic, air-conditioned relief from the heat and UV rays.

It's difficult to think of an artist whose work is less summery than that of late French photographer/conceptualist Pierre Molinier. His perversely fascinating, gender-blending images are the product of a fetishistic sexual obsession that played out over decades in an airless garret in Bordeaux, France. His was a rather solitary, 20-year project that involved his desire to remake himself into a perfect hermaphroditic, bisexual form.

Or to put it crudely, to become a self-pleasuring chick with a dick. In 1976, at the age of 76, he shot himself, an auto-erotic suicide that wasn't quite as sexy as Molinier had intended.

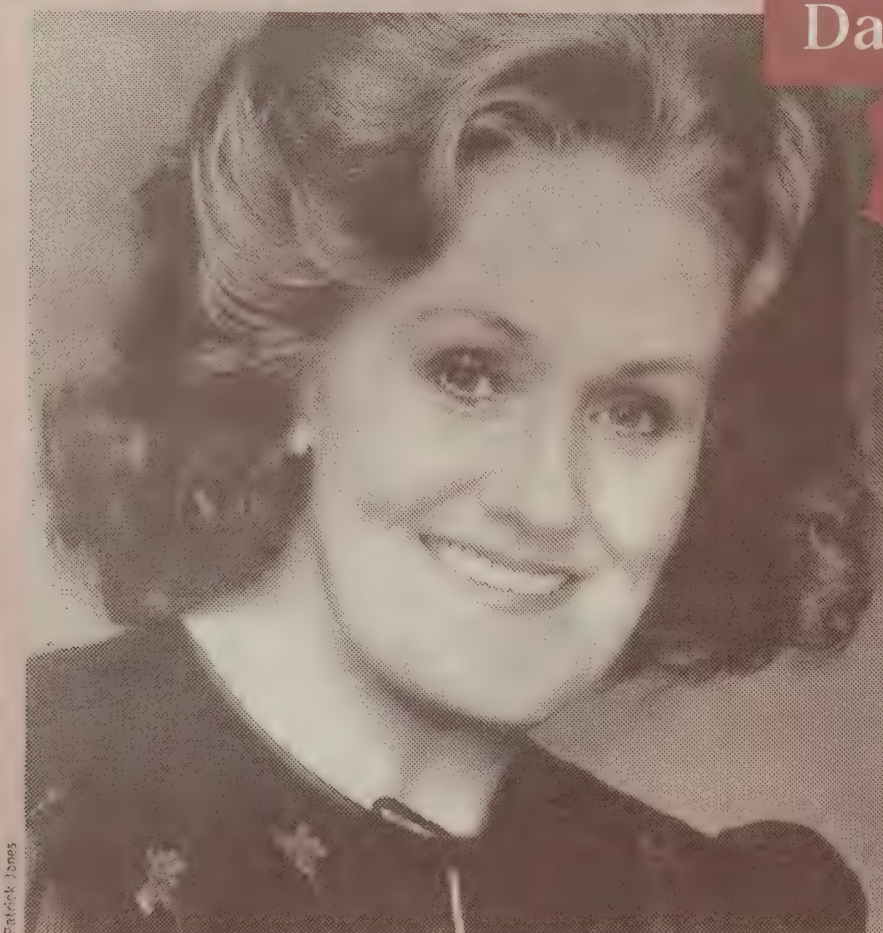
A fascinating exhibition of nearly a hundred of his photographs is one of the prime seasonal offerings at the sunny Santa Monica Museum of Art. (The concurrent shows by Lee Caruso and Andrea Bowers aren't quite as memorable.) It's a show with primary appeal in its biographical details and pervy accouterments. Among the images, compiled by Canadian curator Wayne Baerwaldt, are stiletto-heeled pumps with handmade dildoes strapped to the back, Busby Berkeley orgies of creamy female thighs in fishnet stockings, a dazzling array of undergarments — most

page 40 ►

Dame Joan Sutherland at Merola

Class act

by Paul Thomason



There are very few genuine divas in the world of opera these days. There are lots of talented singers who manage to get through an evening on-stage without embarrassing themselves too much. And there are singers who think they are divas, because they put on airs, and people who don't know any better bow and scrape in their presence. But singers who have a truly spectacular voice coupled with a rock-solid vocal technique which allows them to use that voice any way they want to, and whose performances can be counted on to drive thousands of otherwise sane adults into behavior that would embarrass South American soccer fans — those singers are almost extinct.

That's why Dame Joan Sutherland's presence as a Master Teacher at this year's Merola Opera Program in San Francisco caused such a stir in the Bay Area's opera world. From her historic *Lucia* at Covent Garden on February 17, 1959, which made her known internationally, until her retirement in 1990, Joan Sutherland sang like no one else had in this century. Yes, other sopranos of her time sang the same roles, sometimes they even sang them well. But no one else had a voice as large, as rich, warm and golden, as agile, coupled with such an enormous range; no one else sang with such apparent effortlessness, and no one else communicated such joy in singing. Any young opera singers

page 38 ►

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by Roberto Friedman
and Surf Pup

Last week, while the country's attention was consumed by questions of national import (is it or isn't it Presidential spoo on that navy blue cocktail dress?), we were busy keeping track of another national pastime: hideous, disfiguring bigotry. Seems the dynamic musical duo the **Indigo Girls** had planned to tour public high schools in the South this summer — you know, kind of a “bring the music to the kids” goodwill tour. Times being what they are, three of the five high schools scheduled to host the group canceled their visits, citing either the Girls' lesbianism or their “vulgar” lyrics.

The National Campaign for Freedom of Expression reports that principal **Gerard Witt** of Irmo High School in Columbia, South Carolina nixed the concert “after receiving complaints about the duo's sexuality.” Two days later, **Ed Chism**, principal of Germantown High School in Tennessee, canceled their performance, citing the group's “vulgar language”; jumping on the intolerance bandwagon like any good educator, principal **Ed Hedgepeth** of Farragut High School in Knoxville then called off the musicians' appearance at his school. Way to go, guys. That's the American way.

Sort of reminds us of the reactionary stiff who runs things down at *The San Diego-Union Tribune*, which last week rejected an innocuous advertisement for Trimark Pictures' *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*. The ad depicts the characters Billy and Gabriel, fully clothed and from the shoulders up, leaning in for a big wet one. Advertising Director **Gary Moore** said, “We turned down the ad because it didn't fall within company guidelines,” which presumably include homophobia, constipation, and the gag-inducing strictures of what passes in Bland Diego for good taste.

Remembering Uranus

Enough with the bad guys, on with the good guys! Local filmmakers **David Weissman** and **Bill Weber** are headed for New York City this week to interview immortal moviemaker **John Waters** for their documentary-in-progress on the legendary **Cockettes**. Waters was a huge fan of the Cockettes, who brought “*The Lady Divine*” out to San Francisco in 1971 after she made a big



David Weissman, Holly Woodlawn, and Bill Weber at the SFLGIFF.

splash in Waters' film *Multiple Maniacs*. Divine played a giant crab in the Cockettes musical *Journey to the Center of Uranus*. Weissman and

Weber are asking local old-timers to scour their attics, closets, and memories for any Cockettes-related materials, particularly film, videotape, or snapshots. If you are one of the lucky few blessed with Cockettes memorabilia, call them at 703-

8661, or e-mail them at paradox@sirius.com.

Back to the beach

Hasn't it already seemed like an endless summer? In that “Catch a Wave” mood, we picked up *Surfing San Onofre to Point Dume: 1936-1942*, a new book of photographs by **Don James** of pre-World War II Southern California beach culture (Chronicle Books). It's a seductive collection, snapshots of pioneer surfers up on their long boards or relaxing their tanned bods on the beach, all before surfing became popular culture for the masses. Most of the surfers James snapped were young watermen studlies, but there is

also a picture of **Mary Ann Morrissey**, who mastered the art of hanging ten and evidently was something of an early female legend, long before beach blanket movies.

Though James, a surfer as well as a shutterbug whom the *New Yorker* called “the premier photographer of surfing,” died in 1996, those crafty editors at Chronicle Books were able to assemble this book from scrapbooks stored in his garage. They are great pics indeed of surferboys, their prized redwood boards, and the beach-based lifestyle, and they include identifying notes based on recorded interviews with the principals.

Tinseltown footnote: one 1937 snapshot features **Jackie Coogan**, a former child star who had to sue his parents for misappropriation of funds. At the time of the photo he lived in the Malibu Colony, “just a couple of hundred feet from the best waves in the world,” and he invited surfers to the beach and up to his house. Later, after his career comeback on the *Addams Family* TV show, he would be mobbed by kids at the beach shouting, “**Uncle Fester**, Uncle Fester!”

Back in the 30s, it seems,
page 41 ►



Tommy Gray and Chas Butler at San Clemente Reef, 1939, by Don James

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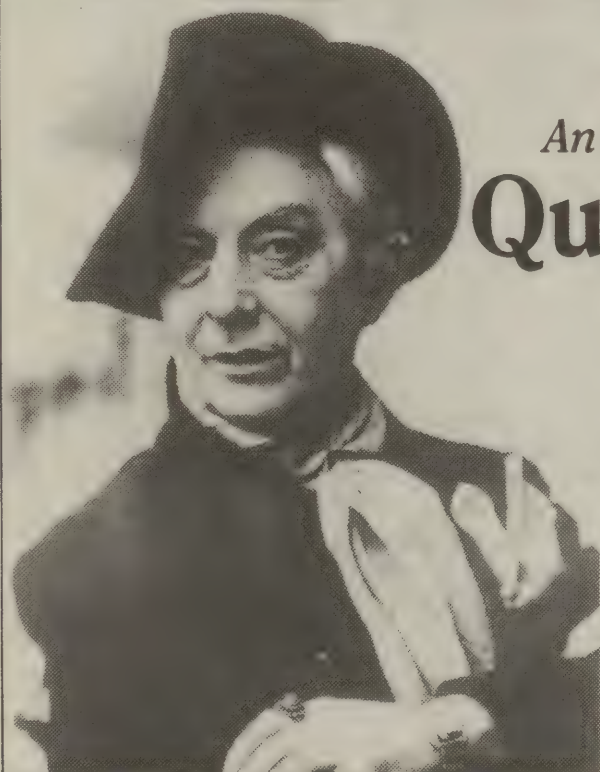
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COMEDY

Scott Thompson at Punchline Deconstructing Buddy

by Gary Morris

Every ghetto has its gadflies, and there's no better one for the gay ghetto than Buddy Cole. Buddy is the evil queen bartender, or "mixologist" as he mock-pompously calls himself, created by comic Scott Thompson during his tenure with the Canadian comedy troupe The Kids in the Hall. In a field crowded with boringly affirmative stand-up queers, Thompson's Buddy is a true iconoclast. He was a pioneer in reclaiming the word "fag," prefers "gay shame" to "gay pride," blithely analyzes dick sizes by race and the ramifications thereof, and plays a rape scene for laughs. These are not strategies intended to warm the hearts of either the mainstream or the expected queer audience, but Thompson has managed to build a sizable cult around this sophisticated, vicious queen. And with his unrepentant druggie-cocksucker stance, and the camp nihilism of sentiments like "The world's so full of shit, why bother to wipe your ass?", Buddy remains irresistible more than a decade after his first appearance.

Thompson's been trotting out his incarnation of the ultra-fag to various venues around the country in a show called "Mixology Monology," to promote his character's recently published autobiography *Buddy Babylon*. This one-hour show, on view last week at downtown San Francisco's Punchline, is an often screamingly funny mix of monologues from the book and *The Kids in the Hall* TV show, along with some hyperactive "acting exercises" in which mixologizing Buddy plays scenes to a variety of unseen, increasingly bizarre customers. Among them are two gay lovers "who look just alike," a "bull dyke on the loose" terrorizing his bar, a closeted policeman, and of course the rapist. Through some theatrical sleight-of-hand, Thompson



Scott Thompson

makes these fanciful characters come as surely alive as if they're standing before us.

He arrives on stage in his red velvet jacket and familiar leering grin, prancing up and down like a preening, drug-addled supermodel: "A real fag can do runway on a butter knife." Thompson's a savvy talent with an instant read on the crowd; seeing their approval, he milks the gag: "More runway." From there he launches into a series of hilarious tirades variously lamenting the end of the drug culture, complaining about the "kidnapping" of his much-abused corncob ("I call her

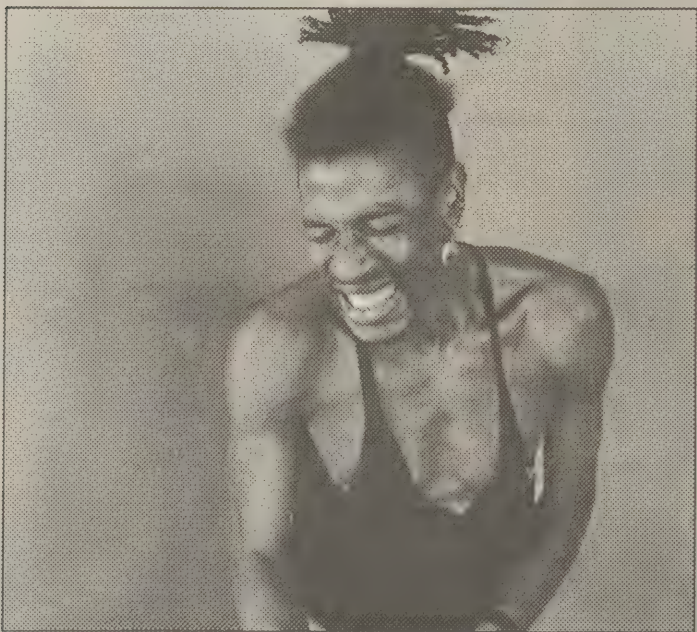
Cornygirl"), eulogizing dead queens ("Charles was a leather-slut"), describing his unusual birth ("I was hatched from a Fabergé egg"), and carrying on like the mad queen he is.

No subject is outside Buddy's purview. During an AIDS rap, he complains about the lack of agreement on what constitutes safe or unsafe sex. When Canada and England decided oral sex was safe but the US called it unsafe, "I stopped blowing Americans." He reminisces that his dead pal Charles "claimed to find biblical support for fisting." The rape sequence shows a surprisingly gymnastic Thompson, who goes apoplectic when he's thrown over a barstool by his imaginary assailant. In true unpredictable Buddy Cole style, this doesn't prevent the two from enjoying a romantic slow dance and blow job afterward. Another dicey bit is his brilliant analysis of dick sizes by race. As elsewhere, he uses a lurid subject to skewer people's perceptions and prejudices on a subject rarely discussed above a whisper.

Thompson has rightly complained in the past about the lack of notice, or the negative reactions he's received from the gay press for what appears even today as a revolutionary character in Buddy Cole. When I spoke to him a couple of years ago, he called the "controversy" over Cole "indicative of the immaturity of the gay community. A truly mature community can take criticism, it can take parody, it can take comedy." Buddy was Thompson's triumph on *The Kids in the Hall*, an unforgettable combination of dish queen, sybarite, and social critic. The fact that he continues to attract passionate audiences and to make comic fodder of so many still-taboo subjects is welcome news that the ghetto, if not the world at large, may be getting the message. ▼

PERFORMANCE

Five for the fifth



Five days of performances as part of the fifth annual Afro Solo Festival kick off Wednesday, August 19, with a program including a premiere by dance company Robert Moses' Kin, Will Power's *Back in the Day*, Deborah Edwards' *From Whores to Matriarchs: Black Women Survivors on the Edge*, and Alison Wright's *Kidnapped in Paris*. A tribute to poet, playwright and performance artist Wayne Corbitt (pictured) on Friday, August 21 includes performances by Avotcja, Blackberri, Jealousy, and Marvin White. Both nights mentioned begin at 8 p.m. at Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. Call 621-7797 for tickets. ▼

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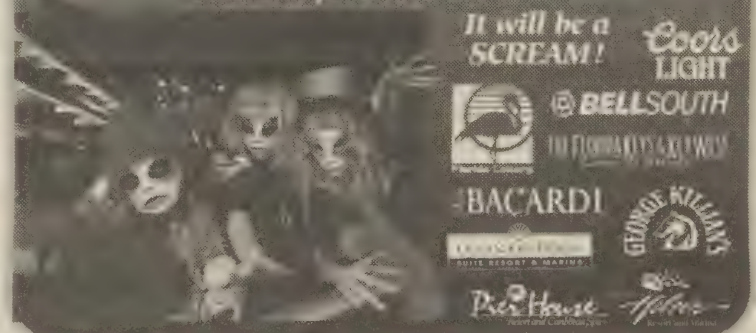
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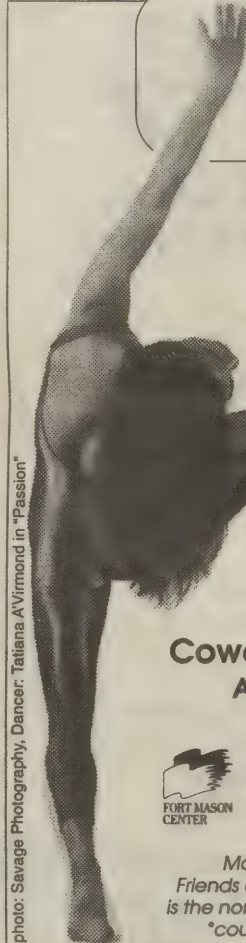
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'Barrymore' at the Herbst Royal fool

by Jerry Metzker

When actor John Barrymore died at age 59, he was a broken and unhappy alcoholic has-been, but for many years, he was a shining star. In his long, prolific career, he starred in more than 50 films, including *Grand Hotel* and *Dinner at Eight*, and dozens of plays in New York and London. His greatest theatrical successes were playing the title roles in Shakespeare's *Richard III* and *Hamlet*.

Younger brother to Oscar-winner Lionel and Broadway stage queen Ethel, Barrymore was one of the siblings in the most successful generation of what theater circles have dubbed the royal family of the American theater. Yet according to his biography, he was a reluctant actor. His real ambition

was to be a painter. He was unhappily married 4 times, and his acting career skyrocketed thanks to the insistence of his best friend, playwright Edward Sheldon. These and other details of John Barrymore's life have been dramatized by William Luce in *Barrymore*, currently playing under the auspices of the Best of Broadway series at the Herbst Theatre.

This one-character play features Christopher Plummer in his Tony Award-winning performance as a once-great actor who is both proud of his accomplishments and tired of himself at the same time. Barrymore is a drunken lout and a cantankerous fool with a perverse sense of humor, a man who spends as much time showing off as he does working. Set during World War II on a Broadway stage which Barrymore has rented to run his lines for a re-

vival performance of *Richard III*, the play has this easily distracted performer recounting to the audience various moments and highlights of his life.

The production is a pleasure, owing more to Plummer's sparkling personality and prodigious talent and Gene Saks' lively direction than to Luce's witty, but rather shallow play. Luce succeeds in creating a character with a lot of ambivalence toward the rises and falls in his life, but at the same time, Luce is unable to imbue him with the kind of depth that makes his Emily Dickinson in *The Belle of Amherst* so rich.

The only other character in the piece is Barrymore's prompter, Frank. This character remains off-stage for the entire 100-minute play (with intermission), in an entirely awkward convention that works for neither player — not for Barrymore, who both needs and resents his presence, and certainly not for Frank (John Plumpis), who gets a lot of



Christopher Plummer as John Barrymore in *Barrymore*.

dialogue but no stage time. All we know about Frank is that he is shamelessly devoted to the actor and was rejected by the draft board for being gay.

In spite of Plummer's performance, the playing is very actorly. The audience is always aware that the character on stage is Christo-

pher Plummer playing a nearly forgotten, once famous actor. Actually, having recently been relegated to character roles in minor films, Plummer could be playing himself. Still, Barrymore only seems real when he is reciting some of the many Shakespearean lines and partial soliloquies from the play he is rehearsing and *Hamlet*. That again could be due more to Plummer's talent than to the character's presumed ability. Thus, the question remains: what about John Barrymore is so fascinating that Luce felt compelled to create an entire play around him? If there is something of note to the man, then Luce surely has not found it, and more's the pity. With such talents at his disposal, the playwright could have done a lot better by them. ▼

Barrymore plays the Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., through September 6. For tickets, call 776-1999.

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PRODUCTIONS

42nd Street Moon's 'Girl Crazy' Objectionable you

by John F. Karr

Fans of 42nd Street Moon's concert readings of Broadway shows will find much to enjoy in the company's current offering, the Gershwin Brother's *Girl Crazy*. The show is a delectable antique, and the score is memorable, with its classics "I Got Rhythm," "But Not for Me," and "Embraceable You." In this last song, however, I was surprised and offended to hear an infrequently used lyric variation written for the song's encore. In it, the hero encourages his prospective lover to be less shy; she promises, "I'll try not to be so formal, my dear," and he declares himself, "Am I not a man who's normal, my dear?"

Well, my dear. Remember the brouhaha surrounding the use of the word "nigger" on that historically-informed recording of *Showboat*? The word is tastefully and regularly replaced when the



Joshua Brown and Dyan McBride in *Girl Crazy*.

show is staged, and only after much debate was it deemed appropriate for the recording.

Now, the little company performing at Van Ness and Market hardly purports to historical accuracy. At least they show no qualm in arranging the present script to meet their needs. So I wonder if any such debate informed their use of the Ira Gershwin lyric. Did it give them pause?

If so, why didn't they cut it? They're playing in the home of a homosexual theatre company, and their cast and audience are rampant with homosexuals. I don't get it; and neither, obviously, did they. ▼

Girl Crazy, through Aug. 23 at the New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. Call 861-8972.

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Interview with actor Aaron Eckhart

Prick turns schlimazel

by David Lamble

Aaron Eckhart was talking to a friend in Midtown Manhattan when a woman came up to him. There was a look of horror mixed with disgust on her face as she snarled at the thirty-year-old actor. "You know what, I just passed you and I don't know who you are, but I got this sick feeling in my stomach, and I remembered you're in that film, *In The Company of Men*, and I just want to slap you."

Ironically, a woman slapping Eckhart's face is the only act of physical violence in *In The Company of Men*. Audiences who witnessed the film's incendiary debut at last year's Sundance Film Festival, however, may have felt they experienced one hundred minutes of trench warfare between the sexes. Eckhart remembers being on the receiving end of some real animosity from that first festival screening. "People would come out of the theatre and would be like, 'You're a prick! How could you do that? You're not really like that, are you?' And I'd be like, 'Of course I am.' Throw them off the path."

Women were not alone in being put off by *In The Company of Men*'s brutal sendup of corporate dating rituals. Some men found themselves seduced into identifying with Eckhart's character Chad, the ruthless young headhunter who devises a diabolical plan to grab his best friend's job in the company while heaping humiliation on a vulnerable young deaf woman. Some of those same male audience members were later ashamed of themselves for laughing as Chad's joke, "I don't trust anything that bleeds for a week and doesn't die."

In The Company of Men represents the dark view of humanity held by its creator, ex-mental health worker-turned-playwright

Neil LaBute. "We humans are a fairly barbarous bunch, and I don't think we've changed much over the millennia. Society does shape how we act, though, by laying down rules of the game, and the people in [my films] play by the rules of the late 20th Century. These characters represent a fair cross-section of our society today."

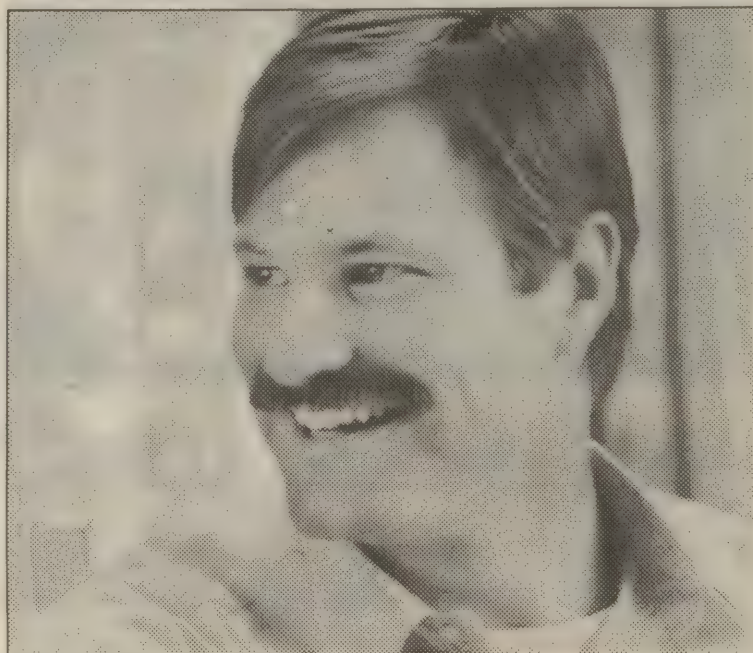
Skunklike behavior

Aaron Eckhart and Neil LaBute met in the late '80s while undergraduates at Utah's Brigham Young University. Eckhart, who stars in both *In The Company of Men* and LaBute's new film, *Your Friends & Neighbors*, admires the fact that his friend's characters never feel the need to explain or justify their skunklike behavior. In perhaps the most audacious single scene in *In The Company of Men*, Chad persuades a young Black male intern to drop his pants so that Chad can see his balls, can judge whether he has "the big brass ones" to play with the corporate sharks. Eckhart plays the scene like a date rape, and while the young man strips down to his striped boxer shorts, Eckhart's Chad is having his own subtle climax, eating his sandwich, wiping the mayonnaise from the corner of his mouth, perhaps experiencing a little post-ejaculation guilt, and then dismissing his victim from the room. Eckhart explains that the scene's gay subtext helps sharpen the audience's perception of Chad as a heterosexual man who's acutely uncomfortable in his relationships with women. "I chose to make Chad climax in that scene, which makes it more complex, puts more layers into it."

Gay subtext abounds. Chad is constantly using settings like the executive washroom to metaphorically castrate his best friend Howard, whose job is really the object of Chad's affection. LaBute favors static camera shots

whose low or high angles clearly delineate who's on top in a scene. Like Woody Allen, LaBute shoots most of his scenes in master shots, so that both actors can play off each other and really revel in their screentime.

In LaBute's latest film, *Your Friends & Neighbors*, Eckhart is joined by Ben Stiller and Jason Patric. The three men play the kind of male buddies who wind up sharing almost everything with each other. In the film's pivotal scene, the three men play the "truth game," each sharing a very personal secret. Again, gay subtext defines the scene. Sitting in a gym sauna, clad only in bath towels, the trio resembles a tableau from an early-80s *Advocate* cover, when gay men were first grappling with AIDS and starting to fear their sexuality. As the three characters sit in this highly eroticized setting, Jason Patric begins a startling monologue, in which he reveals his participation in the gang rape of a young football player. Eckhart explains why LaBute's writing so disturbs some audiences. "You can look at that scene two ways—as this brutal misuse of masculinity and power because he raped a kid in a shower room, or you can look at it as Jason's character's only real admission of tenderness and vulnerability in the film, which is quite sweet. At no other time does Jason's character let himself be vulnerable or be hurt or moved. And here he is in a very beautiful still performance of this monologue. Then, as Neil so wonderfully does, he just drops it, right after that scene, and he lets the audience's mind work overtime and he goes on to something else, which I think is brilliant. Again he doesn't need to explain himself, and the characters don't need to come to any conclusions or closure, which I think is really why Neil's films are controversial." Eckhart adds that for Neil LaBute, the sauna scene may have been an



Aaron Eckhart in *Your Friends and Neighbors*

homage to a scene in *The Blues Brothers* movie.

Homosexuality appears in a more conventional way in *Your Friends & Neighbors* in the lesbian relationship that develops between the characters played by Catherine Keener and Nastassia Kinski. Even this rather normal coupling comes about as the result of an act of betrayal by another character.

Finding the softness

Eckhart went through a dramatic physical change to play Barry, the man who is the butt of most of the film's rather nasty jokes. Transforming himself from Chad's lean-and-mean sleek weasel who is all sharp angles, Eckhart ate his way through a mountain of cheeseburgers and gained forty-five pounds so that he could portray Barry as one of life's *schlimazels*. Eckhart says that he and LaBute would point out Barry-types to each other as they were jetting through Europe. "And it was always this guy for whom life was just crashing down on him and he had no other alternative but to just take it on the chin. I thought what better way to get rid of the stigma of Chad, which was all sharps and edges and aggression, then to take Barry, gain the weight, find that softness, find

the vulnerability in him. Barry's like a Roman ruin that was once so strong and virile."

Eckhart says that by disfiguring his body, he found his character. "I felt depressed. My ass looked like a golf ball. I had wrinkles, I couldn't even tie my shoes. Days when I wasn't shooting, I would just sit in my Hollywood rented apartment in front of the mirror and sigh, 'Wow, what the hell happened to you.'" Eckhart adds that for some audiences members, Chad gets his comeuppance through the humiliations inflicted on Barry, as though Barry is Chad a decade later.

Eckhart wasted little time shedding the extra pounds once he was through playing Barry. On the table of his San Francisco luxury hotel suite was a partially eaten salad, once again the staple of his diet. If Aaron Eckhart is hungry, he shows it mostly in the work. His body is once again lean and trim, not far from the starstruck teenager from Los Gatos that he was a mere fifteen years ago, when first bitten by the acting bug. ▼

***Your Friends & Neighbors* opens Wednesday, August 19 at the Opera Plaza Cinemas in San Francisco.**

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Literary miscellany Making a list

by Deborah Peifer

Margaret Gillon (Odd Girls Press), who gave lesbian readers the extraordinary bibliography *Lesbians in Print*, can't stop listing those books of ours. She e-mails: "Did I tell you I'm doing a new bibliography? It is bi/gay/lesbian/trans, and the books will be listed by subject, then alphabetically by author. The lesbian books will be separate from the gay books, so there will be Mystery-lesbian, Mystery-gay, and Mystery-gay/lesbian. It is going to include out of prints; I want it to be a history of our publishing movement. I will list any books written in English. The books will still have a synopsis on the first edition of each book, but I have standardized the length to 250 characters, which is approximately 50 words. I am going to sell advertising in the book to support it, and then I am mailing out the first 2,000 copies FREE to libraries and G/L/B/T Studies teachers. Target date is March 1999. The title is *Checklist*, named after the original bibliography done by Gene Damon [Barbara Grier] and Marion Zimmer Bradley. I am estimating 8,000 books will be listed." Hooray!

Born again

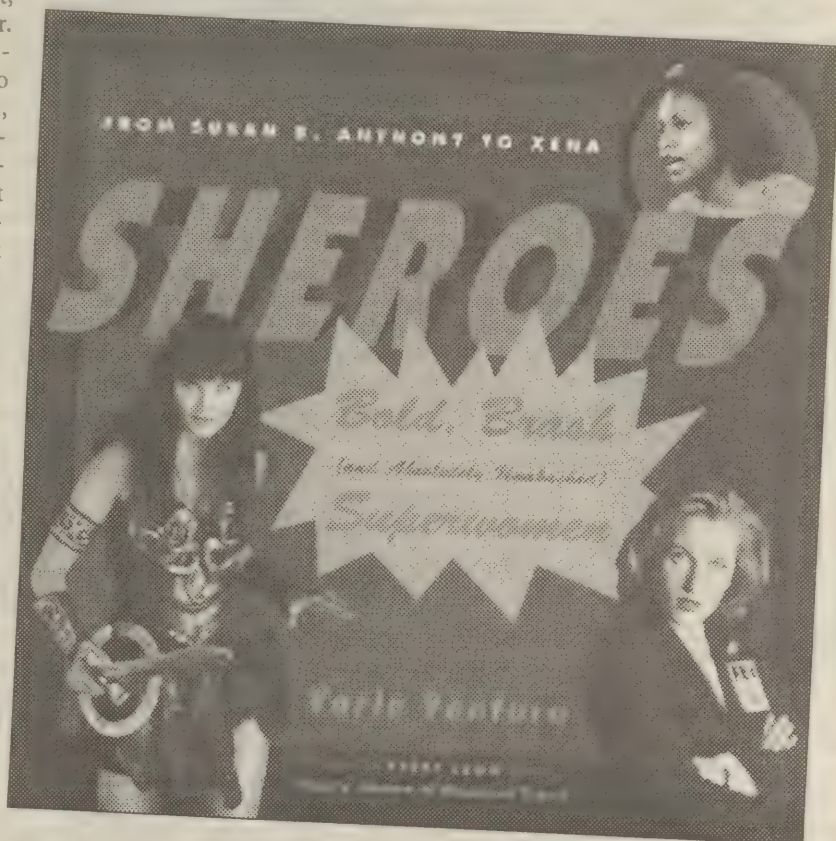
When a writer of extraordinary talent dies young, the loss of what might have been is painful. In the case of a lesbian writer, the loss is frequently even greater, because her published works go out of print and are lost to the community. Chris Anne Wolfe died in 1997, and we lost a storyteller of unique and compelling skill. Wolfe created absolutely believable fantasies, filled with memo-

rable characters and plots that challenged and entertained. Her Aggar novels (*Shadows of Aggar* and *Fires of Aggar*) took us to imaginary worlds in which magic was an everyday possibility. *Bitter Thorns*, Wolfe's feminist revisioning of *Beauty and the Beast*, took a familiar tale and made it wonderfully strange and completely credible. *Annabel and I*, a romantic

print, so get the rules, and get writing.

Acts of sheroism

One of the many problems associated with patriarchy is that the boys write the history, which turns out to be the history of the boys. Feminist scholars have done important work in rediscovering women whose lives were worthy of celebration and



tale of time travel, was a delightful read, filled with humor and the perils of true love. Pride Publications has reissued all four of Wolfe's sumptuous and splendid novels, giving Wolfe's work new life, while giving her readers something of great value.

Prizewriters

Kalliope, A Journal of Women's Art, announces the 1998 Sue Sanieil Elkind poetry contest. The first prize is \$1,000, and the poem will be published in *Kalliope*. Runners-up will be considered for publication. The deadline for submissions is November 1, 1998 (postmark), and the rules for submissions are lengthy and strict. Send SASE for detailed entry requirements to *Kalliope*, Sue Sanieil Elkind poetry contest, FCCJ, 3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville FL 32205. Come on now, you know have at least one prizeworthy poem you've been dying to see in

emulation. Varla Ventura offers a light-hearted but nevertheless important look at women of fact and fiction, of legend and history, in *Sheroess: Bold, Brash, and Absolutely Unabashed Superwoman* (Conari, \$16.95). I'll confess the usage 'shero' makes my teeth hurt, but that small objection aside, these brief tales of heroic women filled my feminist heart with joy. Ventura includes a bibliography so you can read more about your favorites, but each individual story stands on its own as a lesson to boys and girls and women and men, that a penis is not a requirement for a valuable life. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to dpeifer@delphi.com, or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

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'O Solo Homo' Personal bests

by John F. Karr

More than just a souvenir of performance works you are likely to have seen and enjoyed, *O Solo Homo* (Grove Press, paper, \$17.50) is perhaps the strongest collection of performance art yet published. Its editors are Holly Hughes and David Roman, the former a noted playwright and performance artist, the latter an academic and author of a previous volume about performance and gay culture. It's a good combination, and together they've secured the cream of recent performance work.

The striking volume contains 13 pieces from a range of writers, including Peggy Shaw, Luis Alfaro, Tim Miller, Alec Mapa, Kate Bornstein, Carmelita Tropicana, Michael Kearns, and Ron Vawter. There's a performance piece by editor Hughes, and she and co-

editor Roman have provided an entertaining and informative introduction — her sections as bracingly revealing as her stage pieces; his as densely stuffed with jingo and currently popular political-ese as befits his station. And almost stealing thunder from the pieces themselves, each artist has provided a personal introduction to his or her piece, explaining the how and why of it. This makes a collection that is already unusually personal and direct much delectably more so.

Reading performance art is quite enjoyable; you may miss the genre's frequent nudity, but you gain so much in comprehension. Given the more expansive time frame of reading, which includes the time for reflection absent in the theatre, your mind can careen freely and freshly into its own intimacies. And you can more easily appreciate the author's skill. Some of them try to include

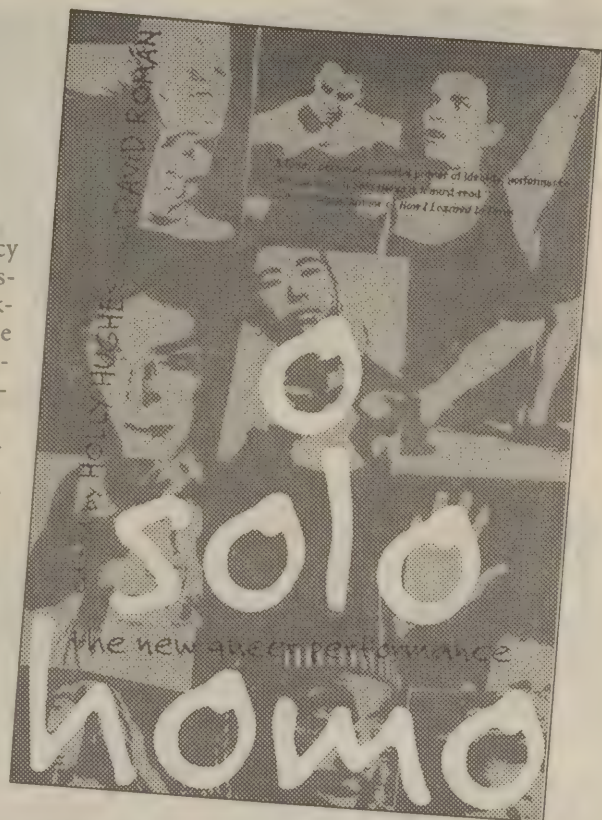
everything; only a few, like Peggy Shaw in her meditation on what made her butch, leave out everything but the most telling detail. This abstraction sometimes produces poetry, or a form that seems close to the troubadour's lyric. For me, at least, it makes a work all the richer to have my imagination thus encouraged.

Many of the writers cultivate a glib personality, spinning cleverly on and on as they move us from the cozy spaces we share to a moment of personal truth, a cabaret epiphany that pierces the life of the performer so cleanly that it becomes the audience's truth as well. This is the particular gift of performance art, and this volume is redolent with it.

With its roots in the entertainment of stand-up comedy and the truth of a Ruth Draper or a Lenny Bruce, performance art brings us

the immediacy of gay and lesbian lives, making even the most exotic experiences understandable for their universal aspects. It's a way of testifying to our common experience. The contributors to *O Solo Homo* couldn't be more dissimilar — Black, Asian, Latino, Jew, transgendered, femme and butch. And they couldn't be more alike. It's good to have these friends telling their

story, which is my story and our story in the permanent form of this book. ▼



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Darlene Popovic's 'Love & Laughter' Sumptuous sampling

by Jim Van Buskirk



Darlene Popovic

Darlene Popovic has been entertaining Bay Area audiences for many years. Lending her unique comic versatility to a wide variety of musicals, revues and cabarets, Popovic has been seen as Miss Adelaide in *Guys & Dolls*, in the Jerry Herman revue *Tune the Grand Up*, and playing multiple characters in *No Way to Treat a Lady*, *Jeffrey*, and *Mama Parmigiana*. She has also performed one-woman shows at the Plush Room, Theatre on the Square, Larkspur Theatre, and Don't Tell Mama in Manhattan. For her work, she has been awarded five Gold Awards from the San Francisco Council on Entertainment and two awards from the Bay Area Critics Circle.

Now Popovic's debut recording *Love & Laughter* showcases her many talents. The well-produced debut album offers a sumptuous sampling of her work, perfect as a souvenir of remembered performances, or as an introduction to this lovely lady's talents. Because I chiefly recalled her comedy songs, I expected mostly novelty numbers on the album. I was therefore surprised that the recording includes so many beautifully rendered ballads. Aptly titled, *Love & Laughter* really is an equal mix of both.

Laughter is evoked by the slightly ribald "Vodka" by Otto Harback and George Gershwin, one of Dar's signature songs. Performed with rollicking gusto, the cut captures all of the vocal fun, if not the visual mugging of her hilarious performance. Equally amusing are "I'm Hungry," "Sadie Salome Go Home," "A Square in the Social Circle," and a special version of "I Wish You Love." Is it possible to have a "twinkle" in one's voice? If so, Dar does.

Love is represented by the opening offering, "Mean to Me," "I Wake Up in the Morning Feeling Fine," and the album's dramatic closer, "Reach for Tomorrow." Having performed at Ira Gershwin's 100th Birthday Party, she sings a medley of "Loved Walked In" and "Embraceable You." Irving Berlin, whose 100th birthday she also helped celebrate, is represented by "What'll I Do," coupled with Jerry Herman's "Time Heals Everything," and "Say It Isn't So" with Frank Loesser's "I Wish I Didn't Love You So."

The arrangements sparkle under the attentive ear of producer Bev Case, as Dar is ably backed by her music director and arranger Donald Eldon Wescoat on piano and Dina Weinschelbaum on cello.

You'll have an opportunity to both see and hear Darlene Popovic's look at love and laughter when this local talent celebrates the release of her debut album with 5 p.m. performances on August 22 and 23 at Star Classics, 425 Hayes St. Tickets are \$10; call 552-1110. ▼

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BOOKS

Civil rights' master planner

by Dan Blue

Bayard Rustin: Troubles I've Seen: A Biography by Jervis Anderson; University of California Press

In 1956, the Montgomery bus strike was front-page news, and Martin Luther King turned to Bayard Rustin for advice. At first glance, that decision seemed inspired. Beginning in the early forties, Rustin had engaged in a one-man civil disobedience movement, traveling the United States and integrating diners and train cars. He was jailed twenty-five times and endured many beatings. Yet he always held to principles of non-violent resistance which a friend summarized as, "Never raise your voice; never make a ruckus; simply insist on your dignity and your rights as a

human being."

Nonetheless, King's fellow ministers were aghast at the consultation. They complained that Rustin had associated with communists in college, and they were scandalized by his homosexuality. "I never felt it necessary to do a great deal of pretending. And I never had feelings of guilt," Rustin later remarked, and the preachers decided to make him pay. They caused such a fuss that King had to invite Rustin secretly to meetings and once asked him to lie face down in the back seat of a car while being smuggled to a hide-out. Eventually, under threat of blackmail, King dismissed Rustin publicly, though he continued to consult him on the sly.

Rustin was the civil rights leader who didn't fit in. Straight leaders found him too valuable to ignore and too scandalous to acknowledge. The very peace orga-

nization which had sponsored his jail sentences in the forties dumped him in pious horror when he was arraigned on a morals charge. Yet they continued to fraternize to pick up tips. Rustin was too valuable to sideline for long.

One man consistently treated him with the dignity he deserved. A. Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, helped Rustin in his youth and insisted that he engineer the 1963 March on Washington. That August, up to 400,000 people converged on the capital to hear King's "I have a dream" speech and to demonstrate their support for Black civil rights. Yet the master planner was a gay man many participants pretended wasn't there.

He worked under severe constraints. Rustin was not only short of time — he had seven weeks to plan the affair — but march officials decided that all participants must depart the city by dusk. This meant that in addition to the usual logistical problems of food and sanitation, he had to arrange for several hundred thousand people to arrive in Washington no earlier than 6 a.m. and be out on the highways by nightfall. He succeeded magnificently. "I am a technician," he proclaimed.

The march was arguably the last hurrah for peaceful demonstration. Rustin soon found himself sidelined by leaders who believed in neither integration nor non-violence. He continued to thrive as an elder statesman, but

by the time he died in 1987, his name had vanished from public view. Then in the early nineties, Taylor Branch brought Rustin to light by according him a major role in his Pulitzer Prize-winning history *Parting the Waters*. San Francisco actor Brian Freeman dramatized his life in a theatrical production last summer, and gay historian John D'Emilio is apparently writing his own book on Rustin. At last, he's getting his due.

After eight years of research, Jervis Anderson (a *New Yorker* staff writer) weighs in with the unimaginative but reliable *Bayard Rustin: Troubles I've Seen*. Anderson writes a no-frills account which moves efficiently and swiftly through Rustin's career without pausing to examine his personal life. This approach seems at odds with a subject whose personal life was highly relevant and who apparently liked a good time. A brilliant talker, incisive intellectual, and formidable aesthete, Rustin smoked, drank, danced, and sang with such verve that in his youth he appeared with Paul Robeson in a Broadway show. In old age, he said he wanted to be remembered as someone who had fun.

Anderson strips him of all this flair. He may say that Rustin was a colorful figure, but he is incapable of showing it. Somehow this works to Rustin's advantage. Undistracted by his plumage — his personality, humor, and grandiloquence — we see how serious he really was, and how effective. What he wanted to do, he



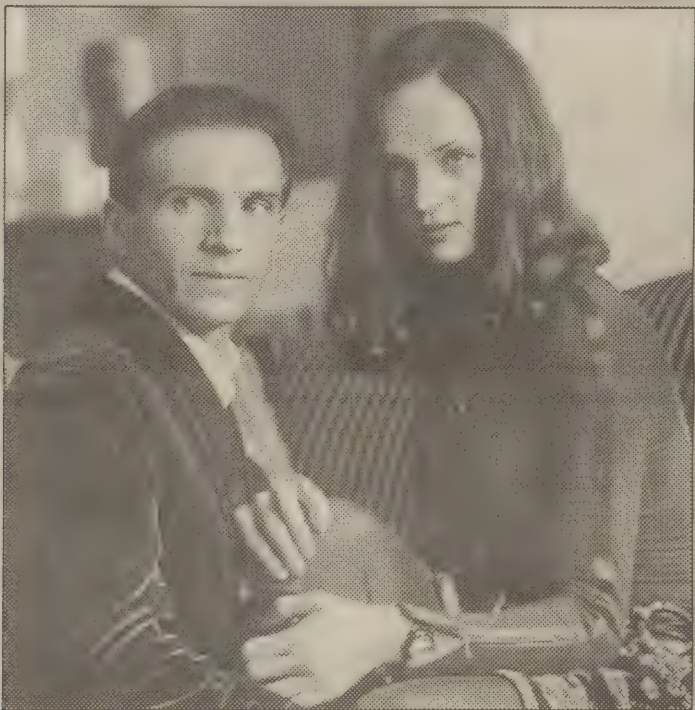
Bayard Rustin in 1952

did. He didn't fight temptation; he promptly yielded (much to the chagrin of monogamous boyfriends), and when he believed in a task, he seems to have spent little time in forethought. He moved right in to accomplish it. He was the kind of moral man who drives moralists crazy because he didn't do good deeds out of principle. He did them because he cared.

Above all, he insisted on human dignity. No one fought harder for the advancement of Black civil rights, but for Rustin the struggle went beyond color. "What is oppressive about prison," he once commented, "is that one is unable to be a human being." He asked for nothing more than courtesy — to take his seat unmolested in a train car or restaurant — and he waited quietly to be served until he brought the house down. ▼

FILM

Avenge this



David Agency

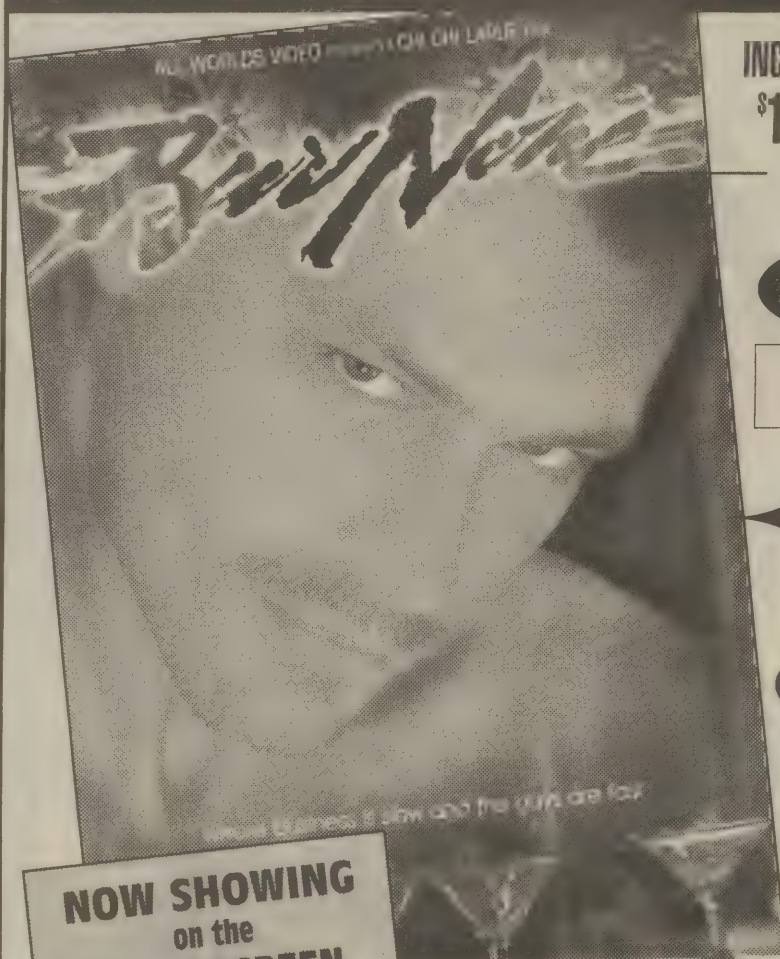
Ralph Fiennes is John Steed, and Uma Thurman is Emma Peel in the new film *The Avengers*, also starring Sean Connery as the evil Sir August De Wynter. We'd run a review, but Warner Bros. didn't seem terribly anxious to screen it to the press ... something about still working on the visual effects. So all we can do is wish Ralph and Uma good luck for their entry in the mindless summer film sweepstakes. Opens Friday. ▼

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Dame Sutherland

◀ Arts cover

worth their dreams would move heaven and earth to be able to work with such a legend.

The Merola Opera Program is the farm team of the San Francisco Opera, the chance for a few dozen young singers and coaches to spend 10 weeks in intensive study, and to perform complete operas (fully staged and with orchestra) at the Stern Grove Festival and at Villa Montalvo in Saratoga. Each year, a few singers are offered the opportunity to become Adler Fellows with the San Francisco Opera Center, a two-year residency program which allows them to sing small roles on the SF Opera's main stage while continuing their coaching. Such internationally-known singers as Carol Vaness (who also gave a master class this year), Deborah Voight, Dolores Zajick, Ruth Ann Swenson, Thomas Hampson, Kurt Streit, Brian Asawa, and Monte Pederson are all Merola alumni, as is conductor Patrick Summers. Sunday afternoon (August 16) at 2 p.m., this year's program will end with the annual Grand Finale concert at Davies Symphony Hall, during which all 23 of this year's participants will sing arias and operatic ensembles, with Ian Robertson conducting members of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra.

Lucky six

For the six young singers chosen to participate in Joan Sutherland's Master Class on July 24, it is a good bet the time they spent with her will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Knowing

local opera-lovers would clamor for the opportunity to watch Sutherland teach, Merola allowed people who had contributed \$350 or more to this year's program to purchase \$30 tickets to the event. Members of the press were grudgingly allowed to sit in the back after receiving numerous etiquette lectures (three in my case) in the days preceding the class. In the end, it was worth the abuse to watch Sutherland at work. For auditors who had heard the diva live, it also was a valuable insight into her own artistry.

"There's not much one can do,

singer; but time after time, it was a struggle for most of the young singers to realize those principles in their performance. Fortunately, Sutherland was able to show how a solid technique actually frees the singer, helping her to do more with less effort.

To a young baritone singing an aria from Bellini's *I Puritani*, she advised, "The voice is like a ping pong ball bouncing on a column of water. Support your voice on the breath more. Don't push down, that's pushing the voice in the wrong direction. This is a loving aria, make your voice more

A soprano working on the Queen of the Night's first (fiendishly difficult) aria from Mozart's *The Magic Flute* asked in desperation, "When you're running out of breath, what do you do?"

"There's not much you can do but work in a breath," Sutherland replied. "Singing is a sneaky profession."

Over the top

Without a doubt, the funniest moment of the evening came after a tenor had given a completely over-the-top rendition of an aria

The last singer of the class, mezzo Elena Bocharova, clearly delighted Sutherland (and the audience) with a moving performance of "When I Am Laid in Earth" from Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. "Make sure you don't sharpen on the first phrase," Sutherland began. Then she paused a moment and said simply, "It's really beautiful, it really is. Do you have Orlofsky with you? Oh, please, let's finish on a nice light note!" In fact, Bocharova repeated the Purcell aria before ending the class with Orlofsky's "Chacun à son goût" from Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*.

Dame Joan also worked with the Adler Fellows who were in town, and at a reception in Sutherland's honor she mentioned how very impressed she had been with Christina Lamberetti, a second-year Adler Fellow. "I think, in time, that she has the potential to be a great Norma," Sutherland said, referring to perhaps the most difficult role in the soprano repertoire, and one of her own most famous portrayals. "If you're wondering about her 'Casta Diva' [Norma's infamous aria], I heard it yesterday, and it was wonderful."

In 1952, a very young Joan Sutherland sang the small role of Clotilde to Maria Callas' Norma at Covent Garden. Eleven years later, Sutherland graduated to Norma herself. This fall, Lamberetti sings Clotilde in the SF Opera's performances of *Norma*, and some of us are betting that history will repeat itself. After all, Joan Sutherland ought to know what it takes to sing the title role. ▼

"The voice is like a ping pong ball bouncing on a column of water," Dame Joan Sutherland told the students. "Support your voice on the breath more. Don't push down, that's pushing the voice in the wrong direction. This is a loving aria, make your voice more loving. Keep the voice forward."

let's face it, working with one aria," Sutherland said at the beginning of the class. "I don't like to interfere, but there are a few things I can point out." And she did. Though she was never unkind to the singers, Sutherland was adamant that they should always sing on pitch, support their voice properly with the breath, and know where a note was coming from before they tried to sing it. In addition, the singers had to convey the fact that each aria is about something, not just a collection of pretty notes.

Such advice would seem to be obvious, the starting point for any

loving. Keep the voice forward." When he quickly jumped in to begin a phrase after they had talked, she stopped him with, "No, no, take the time to breath properly. And don't hang on to the last note in the phrase quite so long, so you have more time for a breath, and to get ready for the next phrase."

Each singer sang through an aria entirely, then Sutherland gave them a list of things to be corrected. (Occasionally, it was a lengthy list.) Then the singer started the aria again, this time with Sutherland interrupting when she felt something specific could be improved.

from Massenet's *Werther*, carrying on as if it were the climactic moment of a verismo opera. Sutherland suggested the student needed to relax and pointed out he overworked his mouth. Realizing she was not quite getting through, she suddenly asked, "Are you a [Franco] Corelli fan? Ah, I rather thought you might be. You're copying some of the mannerisms you can do without. You don't have to bawl this aria. You don't have to bawl any aria. It should be emotional, yes. But don't push."

BOOKS

Words of wisdom

by Paul Thomason

Callas at Juilliard: The Master Classes by John Ardoin; Amadeus Press, \$19.95

The series of classes given by Maria Callas at the Juilliard School from October 1971 through March 1972 became legendary long before Terrence McNally's popular, though historically inaccurate, play *Master Class*. About ten years ago, John Ardoin's indispensable book on the classes was published in hardcover. Its release next month in paperback is long overdue. If you have two different recordings of any one opera, then you owe it to yourself to buy this book.

Ardoin has transcribed Callas' comments on the 75 arias on which the singers worked, and included 950 musical examples to illustrate exactly what Callas meant. If you don't read music, and don't have a friend who does, there are still enormous amounts of wisdom to be gleaned. For instance, speaking of the soprano role in Verdi's *Ernani*, Callas observed, "Elvira in *Ernani* is sometimes sung by light voices, but her music, especially this aria, is for a dramatic soprano, for a *Trovatore*, or a *Forza* voice. It is heavy work and needs power. It is dramatic music sung by an unhappy woman who is being forced into a marriage she does not wish..." To me, Verdi is a god, and whoever distorts his music is not a serious artist. If you want a good example to follow in this music, listen to the recording by Rosa Ponselle."

Callas' take on Leonora's great "Abscheulicher" from Beethoven's *Fidelio* is also revealing. "This aria is the outburst of a woman who has suffered enormously and has dedicated her life to freeing her husband from prison. This fact will affect everything you do with her music. For example, Leonora's piano cannot be a delicate one; it must be full. And though the aria itself is very romantic, it must have tension, a sense of concentrated power."

The book begins with a prologue of Callas' own words, drawn from the classes and from interviews, in which she talks about her early training and her feelings about her voice and career. "Conveying all that you have found in a score becomes a sort of drug," she muses at one point. "If you manage to transmit this to the public, you have a wonderful, drunken feeling which becomes contagious all around."

There is no doubt that at her best Maria Callas was a sensational, addictive high — and this book goes a long way toward explaining why. ▼

CALLAS



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A swirl of white rocks on a glossy black floor represents the river in Chanticleer's *Curlew River*.

Chanticleer's 'Curlew River' East meets West

by Philip Campbell

Male choral group Chanticleer has lived up to their billing as "America's premier vocal ensemble" again, with performances last week of Benjamin Britten's strange and beautiful *Curlew River* at Theatre Artaud. A revival of their successful production from 1994, this remarkable creation receives four more showings this week with alternating cast members.

Sure to confound some and overwhelm others, Britten's improbable blend of Eastern and Western philosophies, musical modes, and theatrical techniques still manages to rouse audiences to thoughtful reaction. That is the point, of course, and perhaps explains why the composer ultimately chose to label his Opus 71 a "Parable for Church Performance" rather than an opera.

Ideally suited to the talents of Chanticleer, *Curlew River* becomes, in the hands of Stage Director Jeffrey Bihr and Music Director Joseph Jennings, a richly textured encounter that transcends the spareness of the production and evokes a deep and complicated response.

Taking off from the enthusiasm Britten shared with his lover, tenor Peter Pears, for the performing traditions of Japan, librettist William Plomer fashioned a work combining the disciplines of Noh drama and the Medieval Mystery Play. The terse results allowed Britten the opportunity to experiment with exotic orchestration and rhythmic meter. The original play, *Sumidagawa*, is also given a Christian sensibility, and the composer responded by framing the action with plainsong hymns. Like most works of genius, *Curlew* is deceptively simple.

Chanticleer's ingenious staging uses the props and stylized motions of the East with costumes and musical instruments from the West. The set is bordered by decks for the musicians, and the glossy black floor is bisected by a swirl of white rocks representing the river. Scenic designer Mikiko Uesugi has also suspended branches of white cherry blossoms over the stage and uses four pillars of burning incense sticks to frame the action. The monastic robes designed by Cassandra M. Carpenter are given imaginative Eastern touches for the principal players, and Jack Carpenter's unobtrusive lighting is also very effective.

The story, as framed by the Abbot (bass-baritone Frank Albinder), tells of a Madwoman who searches pitifully for her stolen child. Along with a Traveler (baritone Chad Runyon), she is taken fatefully to the grave of her son by

a Ferryman (baritone Tim Krol) who is morally equivocal about his passengers. The Boy appears in a vision of redemption, and the play ends with the chorus repeating the opening Gregorian chant *Te lucis ante terminum*, "Before the ending of the day," a mystic affirmation of hope and God's grace.

Curlew/Sumidagawa seems a typically economical Japanese tale and, like haiku, open to limitless interpretation. Plomer changed the emphasis from Buddhist to Christian morality, but the effect only becomes more universal.

Visionary madwoman

On opening night, the pivotal role of the Madwoman was brilliantly enacted by tenor David Munderloh (alternating with Kevin Baum). At first, his highly stylized contortions seemed out of synch with the other, more restrained portrayals, but an understanding of the character's desperate state quickly explained his emotive excesses and vividly mirrored the Madwoman's mercurial shifts in mood and focus. By the end of the evening, Munderloh had convincingly gone from crazy to visionary, still maintaining a pleasing vocal purity.

Soprano Jack Mosbacher (alternating with Julius Talyansky) in the role of the Boy fared less well in his sung contributions, but certainly was believable and affecting. The rather dry acoustic of Theatre Artaud also worked to his disadvantage.

Chad Runyon as the Traveler and Frank Albinder as the Abbot were eloquent in relatively small but important parts. Runyon, a former member of Chanticleer from 1988 to 1997, was especially sympathetic as his character defended the sorrowing mother. The Traveler's response to her plight parallels our own, and his growing awareness of the situation was clearly conveyed.

The Ferryman seems altogether more conflicted, but he, too, displays some of the audience's natural reactions — at least the negative ones. Tim Krol seemed utterly right for the part, and his swings from kindness to cruelty rang true. He also possesses a very beautiful voice and commanding stage presence.

By replacing some conventions of Noh drama such as unison stamping to underscore important passages, Jeffrey Bihr endowed the essentially static drama with electric tension, and held the crowd in rapt attention for an uninterrupted hour-and-a-half. There was a real sense of the suspension of time, perfectly atmospheric for the material.

I was less convinced by his departure from previous stagings, allowing the Madwoman to re-

main onstage and in character at the conclusion. Still, the final tableau, the spirit of the child hovering above his transfigured parent, was visually stunning. It gave an unambiguous punctuation to the story and offered an emotionally satisfying release.

It is not difficult to understand the hit status of Chanticleer's production, which reinforces my admiration for their intelligence and daring. If Joseph Campbell had written a chamber opera, *Curlew River* might have been the result. No wonder local response is enthusiastic. ▼

Curlew River plays Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida, through August 16. For tickets, call 392-4400.

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Hot stuff

Arts cover

worn by the artist himself — and a recurrent mask that would seem perfectly appropriate as the face of a vintage blow-up sex doll. This is a show that may seem more appropriate for the pale-faced, latex-clad Goth set than for well-tanned beach bums, but Molinier's work is perfectly suited to a culture so preoccupied with the buffed, remade body. His work ultimately is a highly-focused meditation on one person's attempt to take on an idealized state.

Obviously, not everyone shares Molinier's vision of perfection, and unfortunately, this exhibition relies almost exclusively on the power of the images themselves to lure us in. The pictures illustrate a fascinating and ultimately tragic biography, but there are few details here to fill in the story. The many images are simply mounted on the walls and related materials displayed in vitrines, some with un-translated French texts.

Even if they don't tell the whole story, these pictures convey plenty. While he was first known for his surrealist-tinged paintings of undulating forms of female flesh (some of the compositions were uniquely varnished with the artist's own sperm), Molinier's artistic legacy lives most vividly in his photographs. The mostly black-and-white images taken in the '60s and '70s, which were made primarily for the artist's own gratification, are a singular achievement that have inspired numerous artists who have also explored the boundaries of self-representation and gender. Looking through this show, you're certain to be reminded of works by Cindy Sherman, Orlan, Robert Mapplethorpe, and others who integrated Molinier's performance art-like strategies into their work.

There's an unreal airbrushed

seamlessness to these images that gives them a haunted quality. The effect results from the way Molinier constructed them. He pieced together his ideal feminine image from a variety of sources — photographs, for example, of a female friend who had what he considered perfect thighs, or his corseted self in provocative poses and/or engaged with others in sexual activities — and cut and pasted them together. The collages were photographed, retouched, and photographed again. The end result has the smooth, retro feel of 1940s glamour shots, with a bit of Betty Page 1950s sleaze (a feel emulated, in a more sugary fashion, by contemporary French artists Pierre et Gilles). The 1968 "Portrait of Hanel Koeck," which shows a woman's face enveloped in a web of hands wearing fishnet gloves and wielding talon-like fingernails, resembles a portrait of Greta Garbo — if she were an early surrealist film star.

Of course, a number of the pictures here pack some salacious shock value. For example, the 1972 photograph "Autofellation yoke," which depicts the nude artist pleasuring himself with the aid of a leather strap tied to his calves. Or the 1969 "Self-portrait with fetish items," showing the fully aroused Molinier, clad only in fishnet stockings and that creepy mask, having his nipples tweaked by a woman wearing black gloves and a peignoir. Such pieces may not be the most notable for their formal qualities, but they're sure hard to forget. Other works, like "My Legs" from 1966, succeed on many levels. That particular piece focuses on a shapely pair of silk stocking-clad gams. They just happen to be bound in leather straps and tied to a chair leg. The carefully painted toenails are poised daintily on the patterned carpet, while a pair of stylish mules have been cast to the side. It's an erotic image of smooth lines and aestheticized

kinkiness that seems to coalesce perfectly. One gets the impression that this appealing composition is exactly the kind of image that would have satisfied Molinier's aesthetic desires.

Mixed bag

A breezier viewing experience can be had a couple of miles away, less than a block from the beach, at the Eli Broad Family Foundation. This museum-quality private collection of contemporary art, viewable by appointment only to arts professionals (be pleasantly persistent and you'll most likely be welcomed), features five floors of high-caliber works. Many of the galleries are devoted to one or two artists. Among the current installation are some fine Cindy Shermans in the basement, a good selection of large pattern paintings by Phillip Taaffe, and a mixed bag of Ross Bleckners.

The most memorable works, however, are those with pumped-up scale and childlike whimsy. "Under the Table," a 26-foot-tall sculpture by LA-based artist Robert Therrien, is a giant piece of furniture that, true to its title, immediately makes you feel gleefully infant-sized. (Therrien will show some smaller works at Gallery Paule Anglim this October.) My personal favorite floor was devoted to the much-reviled Jeff Koons. Along with a mini-retrospective of sculptures, the gallery includes a selection of his surprisingly appealing new works, paintings and sculpture inspired by a kid's birthday party. There's a monumental party favor in the form of a 12-foot-tall stainless steel "Balloon Dog," and three large photorealist paintings depicting a party hat, ribbons, and a particularly seductive rendering of a well-frosted piece of birthday cake. I was fully prepared to dismiss these pieces (which are not convincing in reproduction), but by using an imposing scale and sugary colors, Koons is back to his



Parallelism, 1998, by Brett Reichman

old trick of inflating banal pleasures into the art-world equivalent of a summer Hollywood blockbuster — something gloriously distracting.

Surprisingly hip

If you're up for a minor road trip south into John Wayne terrain, San Francisco-based painter Brett Reichman is in the midst of his first solo museum show at the Orange County Museum of Art in Newport Beach. The museum's surprisingly hip exhibitions and

fairly decent collection of California art are a welcome respite from the suburban landscape of well-manicured golf courses and the upscale shopping lure of Fashion Island that looms mere blocks away. Reichman's show, titled "It's Hard to Be Happy" ("I called it that because it is," he said in a lunchtime artist talk attended mostly by elderly female art aficionados), is composed of six paintings from the last two years. They're dense, marvelously painted.

next page ►

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OUT THERE

Out There

◀ page 30

Coogan would bring his wife **Betty Grable** with him on surfing expeditions, and she would complain, saying, "Get me off this filthy beach!" After Coogan sold all of Grable's furniture without her permission to buy himself a new convertible, he wound up surfside yet again, saying, "Well, boys, it looks like I'm going to have some extra time on my hands." James writes, "I never saw Betty again, except as a pin-up on other sailors' foot lockers."

This summer, James Danziger Gallery in New York showed platinum prints of James' work, each the size of the original snapshot. **Vince Aletti** of the *Village Voice* wrote that the photographs "recapture an idyll that looks at once impossibly innocent and casually homoerotic: **Jacques-Henri Lartigue** meets **Bruce Weber** at San Onofre." They've got us yearning for the fall, when the weather finally heats up and we can hit the surf.

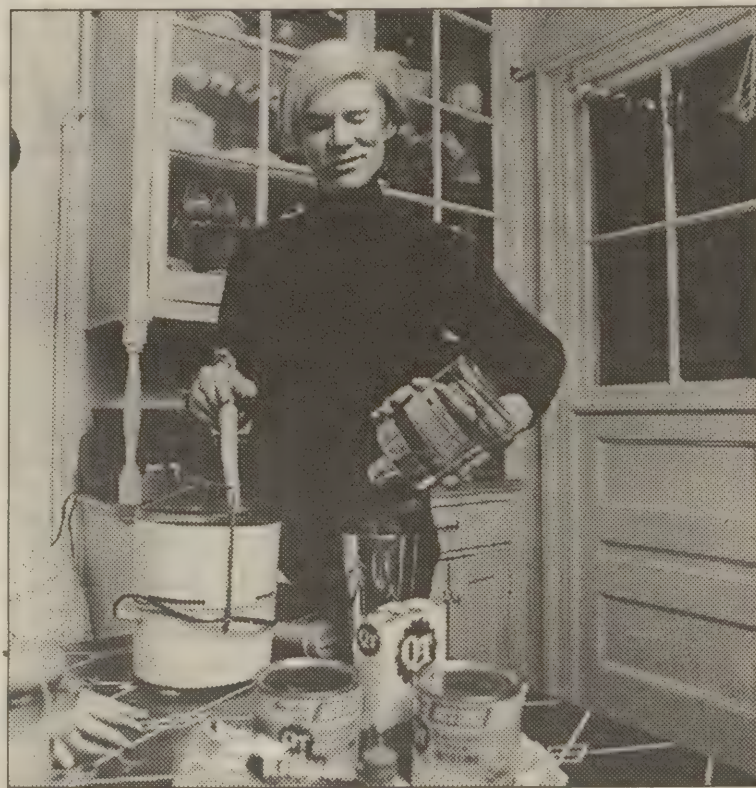
down in the bay. The Japanese were shooting at him from the island, and when they saw us they started shooting at us. The man who was shot down was temporarily blinded, so one of our crew stripped off his clothes and jumped in the water to bring him aboard. He couldn't have swum very well wearing his boots and clothes. As soon as we could, we took off. We were being shot at and we wanted to get the hell out of there! The naked man got back into his position at his gun in the blister of the plane. We weren't waiting around for anybody to put on formal clothes." Mmm-hmmm.

Andy groupie

In front of a San Francisco lecture audience last week, tipsy, fey *New York Times* architectural critic **Herbert Muschamp** revealed publicly for the first time his affair with artist **Andy Warhol**. It's a juicy tidbit from his forthcoming memoir, but as usual, Out There readers are there first, with all the salacious details. It seems Muschamp, as a fresh-faced 18-

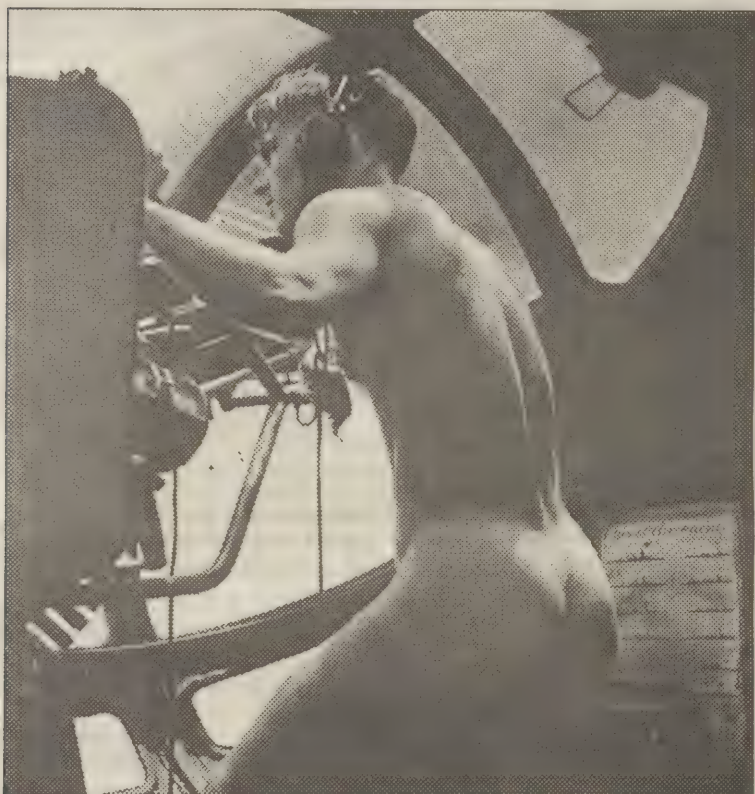
plugged in to Warhol's world, taking the train to NYC on weekends and hanging out at the Factory, eventually waking up in Andy's bed at the Upper East Side townhouse Warhol shared with his mother. Muschamp is now too discreet to tell us the details of what went on in bed, although we understand Andy liked to watch. Of mother and son's claustrophobic relationship, Muschamp commented trenchantly, "It was like the Manhattan version of the Bates Motel." On Andy: "I never met anyone who was able to walk so close to the edge without falling off."

Even then, says our fey critic, the backlash against Warhol had begun in earnest, by an art-world establishment uncomfortable with uncloseted gay artists, then as now. Hey, those sophisticated art snobs don't sound all that different from the small-town high school principals who opened our column. Just goes to show you, all closed minds are alike. ▼



Andy Bakes a Cake, 1971

Thomas Lafferty



PBY Blister Gunner, Rescue at Rabaul, 1944, by Horace Bristol

Up, up and away

While we're on a classic photo kick, we know of at least a few Out There readers who will share our fondness for the accompanying photograph by **Horace Bristol**, part of *Faces of the Twentieth Century: Master Photographers and Their Work* by **Mark Edward Harris**, out from Abbeville Press. Bristol gives the following account of how the appealing "PBY Blister Gunner, Rescue at Rabaul, 1944" image came to be: "We got a call to pick up this man who was

year-old undergraduate at Penn in 1965, was blown away by Warhol's first museum show, at the Institute for Contemporary Art, on the Penn campus in West Philadelphia. He visited and revisited the show, he could not stay away, and finally he begged the museum director to introduce him to the artist.

At the time, Muschamp was too naive to know the sexual economy of an older man introducing a younger man to an older man for that older man's pleasure. Soon Muschamp was totally

Hot stuff

◀ previous page

ed oils that, despite the relatively short time-frame of their making, manage to chart some notable shifts in Reichman's style and queer subject matter.

A 1997 piece, titled "A Painting that Tells a Story," shows his signature dismembered misfit thrift-store toys cast amidst faux baroque bric-à-brac. It's a lush scene accented with areas of dripping paint and faceted patterns. The whole picture forms an enveloping fantasyland that's easy to get lost in, like a Grimm forest. The show's title piece, painted this year, finds the artist working with sparer composition. His subject here, and in other recent works, is a pair of red- and green-striped

fabric tubes with brocade cord trim and condom-like caps. The tubes are presented in a configuration that seems too entangled to unravel. But they still manage to look alluring as a unit set against an acid-y yellow background. While they don't beckon like the aforementioned fantasia, the tangled tubes are complex, metaphorical images that are imbued with both sparkle and substance. ▼

Pierre Molinier, through September 20 at the Santa Monica Museum, (310) 586-6488; **Eli Broad Family Foundation**, (310) 399-4004; **Brett Reichman: It's Hard to Be Happy**, through October 4 at the Orange County Museum of Art.

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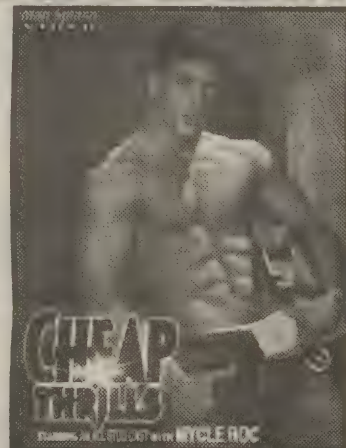
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Come to Dada

I've always admired the work of the Dada artists," says performance artist Hank Hyena, referring to the anti-establishment art movement that arose in Zurich and New York during the first World War. "It's both joyful and revolutionary. I thought it would be fun to do something like that to commemorate the 80th anniversary of 1918 Dadaist manifesto."



Hank Hyena's "Talking Nipple"

Toward that end Hyena, along with Deke Weaver and Erica Benson, have put together an entire weekend of Dadaist-inspired art, in which dozens of film/video makers, painters, sculptors, poets, dancers, musicians and others recreate Dada works or present new material influenced by the Dadaists.

Eccentric, edgy, comic, and unpredictable, the works will be presented over the course of three evenings in the intimate 848 Community Space, a queer-friendly venue notable for its experimental, avant-garde exhibits and performances. Emcee Johnny D. will introduce the artists and attempt to provide threads of continuity.

Among the presenters on opening night (Friday, August 14) is dancer extraordinaire Keith Hennessy, collaborating with musician Jeff Mooney. Sultry songstress Diana Trimble will also be on the bill, among many others.

On Saturday, Deke Weaver will do an evil-clown number involving defecation. Arusha Baker and Tamara Farnsworth will perform a Butoh dance duet involving a lot of fake blood and nudity, and Miguel Frasconi will recreate Dadaist music.

Film and video shorts dominate the final night, notably by The Fifth Floor, the artist-in-residence at Intersection for the Arts. Live music will be performed by Pat, a three-member band who all dress up like the androgynous Saturday Night Live character Pat and sing Pat Benetar songs. Wrestling women will help liven up the bill.

"Probably the most Dadaistic stuff at the festival," says Hyena, "will be the visual art curated by Erica Benson, like weird conceptual sculptures and dolls. Erica does perverse things with Barbie dolls."

Hyena notes the Dadaists "wore goofy costumes," and encourages all attendees to do likewise. Moreover, he adds, "we'll have a lot of food. Some weird Burning Man person has this 1940s popcorn machine. And rumor has it someone's bringing absinthe." ▼

The Dada Festival runs August 14-18 at 848 Divisadero, (between McCallister and Fulton). Admission is \$6-\$10 sliding. Performances begin each night at 8pm. The visual-art opening takes place Sunday, August 16, at 6pm. Reservations are required: (415) 643-8818, ext. 4.

Fri 14

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason

Mark Foehringer Dance Project premieres "After A Dream," set to the music of Gabriel Faure, plus "Jammies," a series of nine dances (six of them new) to songs sung by Bette Midler, Doris Day, the Mamas and the Papas, and others. Also "In Memorium," "Passion," and "Here to There." \$14.50. 8pm. Thru 8/15. Box office: 441-3687. Tix also at BASS: 776-1999.

Theatre Rhinoceros

An evening with Quentin Crisp. The author of *The Naked Civil Servant* and *Resident Alien* imparts bits of scathing wisdom. \$15-\$20. Thru 8/16. 8pm (7pm Sunday). 2926 16th Street. 861-5079.

Artful Circle Theatre

"Eve," a musical comedy based on the movie "All About Eve." Stars Matthew Martin as Margo and Birdie-Bobb Watt as Eve. Arturo Galster as Karen (aka Patsy Kline) sings "What a Fool I've Been." Directed by Dana Peter Porras. From the creators of "Christmas with the Crawfords." \$20 (\$15 on Thursdays). Thru 9/27. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St. Tickets: 474-8800; BASS; Tix Union Square.

Josie's Cabaret

Comedians Karen Williams and Danny Williams. \$10. 8pm. Thru 8/16. 3583 16th St. Reservations: 861-7933. Also: Late Night at Josie's. David Mills and Bridget Schwartz host comedy their weekly talk show with musicians, actors, and other talents. Tonight: "Nasty Habits Show," with guests Carol Doda, Karen Williams, and Jesús. \$10. 10pm.

SF Games

Friendly card and board games open to all players. Play such games as Hearts, Scrabble®, Dominoes, Spades, Tahimi, and others. Bring your favorite games. Free. Every Friday. 7pm to 10pm. Cafe Commons, 3161 Missions St. at Precita. 679-3678.

Kimo's Showroom

"En Drag" hostess Sexilya Luvseat runs her gaggle of female impersonators ragged in the course of three shows. First show at 9pm. \$10 (covers all three shows). 1351 Polk St. (at Pine). 885-4535.

Mad Magda's

David Bergman plays the African harp in the Magic Garden every Friday in August. \$5 donation. 7:30pm. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes St. 864-7654.

Shotwell Studios

Pidgin English Productions presents "Have A Bad Day," two evenings of solo performances, theatre, and music. Thru 8/15. Tonight: Queer solo performer David Mills ("Duty Free") unveils new material, plus Nena St. Louis, Kevin DiPirro, Nina Barlow, and Tori King. Door prizes and post-performance party. \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 3252-A 19th Street (at Shotwell). 386-6292.

Act out your childish fantasies with Peaches Christ at "Midnight Mass." See Tuesday.



Sat 15

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

Montara Mountain hike. Great views, late-season wildflowers, stiff workout. Travel little-known south-side trail, at times brushy and extremely steep. Caution: poison oak abounds. Meet 9am at Glen Park BART station to form carpools. Leader: Steve Neff; phone 334-2134.

Ansel Adams Center

The Friends of Photography's "meet the authors/photographers series." 1pm: J. John Priola discusses *Once Removed*, a collection of still lifes representing absent lives and passing time. Priola's work appeared in the 1996 exhibition "In a Different Light." 2:30pm: Joseph Rodriguez discusses *East Side Stories: Gang Life in East L.A.* his photo-narrative of daily life in the barrio and the 'hood. Free. The Friends of Photography Bookstore at the Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 Fourth Street. 495-7242.

Yerba Buena Center

Post Modern American Pilipino Performance Project. Original works examine what it means to be American-Pilipino 100 years after the start of the Pilipino-American War. Performances by Tongue in a Mood ("xxxx"), Alleluia Panis Dance Theatre ("Gabriela"), and Teatro ng Tanan ("i love/hate America: the choice is yours"). Presented by Kulintang Arts. \$12 advance; \$15 door. 8pm. Thru 8/16. The Forum at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. 978-ARTS. Also: Pistahan Outdoor Fair, showcasing Philippine and Filipino-American talents on two stages, plus cuisine and theme areas. A part of the 1998 Filipino-American Arts Exposition. Free. Thru 8/16.

Theater Artaud

Chanticleer, the Bay Area's internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble, presents Benjamin Britten's "Curlew River," a 75-minute opera based on a medieval Japanese Noh play portraying a grief-stricken mother seeking her missing child. Reserved seats \$25-\$29. General admission \$19. 8pm (7pm Sundays). Thru 8/16. Tickets through City Box Office (392-4400) or BASS. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St.

Galería de la Raza

Fundraiser (in Berkeley) for

this respected SF Mission District Latino arts organization. Featuring writers Amy Tan (*The Joy Luck Club*; *Kitchen God's Wife*) and Gary Soto reading from their works and singing Mexican songs. \$75. 6-9pm. For location, call Jason Flores Williams, (415) 826-8009.

World Music at Clarion

Aboriginal didjeridu musicians Janawirri and Mark Atkins. \$10. 8pm. 816 Sacramento Street. 391-1317. Web: www.clarionmusic.com/events/events.html.

Sax legend Joe Henderson, along with the Kronos Quartet, plays free at Stern Grove. See Sunday.



11am-7pm. Yerba Buena Gardens.

Legion of Honor

"Ancient Gold: The Wealth of the Thracians — Treasures from the Republic of Bulgaria." More than 200 gold and silver objects dating from 4000 B.C. to 400 B.C. Do-cent lecture at 11am. Thru 10/11. California Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park. \$7 adults; \$5 seniors; \$4 youth. Hotline: 863-3330.

Open Studio

Mark I. Chester displays a retrospective of photographs dating back to 1979. A benefit for his 12th annual Folsom Street Fair show, featuring portraits of sex radicals. 1-6pm. Thru 8/16. 1229 Folsom St. 621-6294.

Kimo's Showroom

"Fauxgirls," an "all-different" revue of female impersonators, hosted by Miss Fortune. \$8 cover. 2 shows. Open mike drag show follows (bring tape or CD and be a star). \$8 cover. Doors open 9:30pm. 1351 Polk St. (at Pine). 885-4535.

Ali Akbar College of Music

Classical music of North India with violinist Sisirikana Dhar Chowdhury and percussionist Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri. \$15. 7:30pm. St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. Info: (415) 454-6264.

Sun 16

La Peña Cultural Center

La Lesbian @ La Peña Film Festival. In conjunction with Frameline, a presentation of multicultural shorts, documentaries, erotica, and discussions with local filmmakers. Produced by Karen Hester and Lisa Rudman. \$15-20 sliding for all-day pass, or \$5 for each 90-minute screening. Noon-10:30pm. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley (two blocks east of Ashby BART). (510) 654-6346. Web: www.lapena.org.

A Different Light

Michael Goddard (www.goddard.com) discusses his book *Spiritual Revolution: A Seeker's Guide*, and leads audience members through exercises to turn negative feelings into spiritual ones. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Stern Grove Festival

Jazz with a Twist, featuring Kronos Quartet and tenor saxophone virtuoso Joe Henderson and Friends. Free. 2pm. First come, first seated. Bring ground cloth and picnic lunch. Sigmund Stern Grove, 19th Ave. at Sloat Blvd.

Lupann's Jazz

Vive L'amour, a Bay Area favorite performs the cabaret sounds of post-war France. 7-10pm (two dinner seatings available, at 6pm and 9pm). Prix-fixe menu \$30-\$40. Lupann's, Castro Village, 4072 18th St. Reservations: 552-6655.

Whore Church

Mistress of Ceremonies Carol Queen presides over the Martha Stowirt Whore Church, a sex-crazed Vaudeville-revue benefiting Father River Sims' Tenderloin Outreach to hustlers and other street people. Fun, nudity, prizes. Play buttplug bingo or try musical lapdancing chairs. Crash & Burn Cooking with the Food Dyke. Parlor games by Daddy Whore BUCK\$. Communion with Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Super Special Surprise Celebrity Guests. POLKACIDE plays live, plus much, much more.

Images of sex radicals will be on display at Mark I. Chester's open studio. See Saturday.



Mark I. Chester

Sponsored by the Exotic Dancer's Alliance. \$6; \$4 with donation of food, blankets, or clothing. Free for total nudity (check clothes at door). 8pm. The Embassy Lounge, 600 Polk Street.

Project Amsterdam

Electronic music and art meet on a sunny SoMa patio. Deejays Spesh, Creeper, Science, and Dayz spin everything electronic — house, jungle, techno, speed garage and more. Also: veejays, henna and traditional tattoo artists, body piercings, hairstyles, and a life-drawing workshop. When your body needs a break, soak up the sun and good vibes outside on the patio. \$10 cover. 2pm-9pm. Also on 8/30. 1535 Folsom, between 11th & 12th. More info at <http://www.projectamsterdam.com>.

Marin Music Festival

Jefferson Starship, featuring Paul Kantner, Jack Casady, and Marty Balin, headlines a full day of "music, magic, entertainment and fun for the whole family," emceed by Wavy Gravy. \$20 advance from BASS: (510) 762-BASS, or \$25 at the event site. Begins 10am. Lagoon Park, Marin Civic Center, San Rafael.

Tues

A Different Light

David Savran reads from *Taking It Like A Man*, surveying white masculinity from the Beats to the Super Patriots and the gay macho men. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Cafe DuNord

Trash plays retro-glam rock. \$5-7 cover. 10pm. 2170 Market Street. 861-5016.

Tues

Landmark's Bridge Theatre

Peaches Christ hosts the "Midnight Mass" outrageous film series. Come in costume, yell, scream, sing, dance. Tonight: "The Bad Seed" (1956) directed by Mervyn Leroy, wherein little Patty McCormack raises hell, driving her innocent mother to the brink of suicide. It's kiddie night at the Bridge, so look for clowns, stilt walkers, face painting, cotton candy, etc. Let your wicked inner child out. \$5. Midnight. 3010 Geary Blvd. 751-3213.

iY. Q.U.E.!

Young, Queer & Under Emergency presents "The Zoo," a place for all under-25 gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender Latinos/as to meet, make friends, share thoughts, and kick back. Activities include refreshments, movie nites, games, crafts, and outings. Free. Every Tuesday at 6:30pm. Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida (PCPV), 2973 16th St. (at Mission). 864-7278.

Josie's Cabaret

Gay Mexican singer/songwriter Jesús Guillen performs Spanish-language songs every Tuesday in August, including selections from his new album, "Jesús." With guest musicians. 8pm. 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Trannyshack

Georgia peach and birthday girl Pippi Lovestocking presents "Southern Comfort." \$4 cover. 10pm-3am. The Stud, 9th & Harrison.

A Different Light

Patrick Price reads from *Husband Hunting Made Easy*, a witty common-sense work. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Wed

SF Gay Rap

The gay, bi, lesbian, transgender weekly gathering for discussions, poetry readings, card and board games, improv theatre, or whatever. Free. 7pm to 10pm. Harvey Milk Academy Auditorium, 4235 19th St. at Collingwood. 522-8700.

Mad Magda's

Matthew Worszlo's performs as Kielbasia, Queen of Poland. In this third installment in a series, Kielbasia travels the land, working to keep the old recipes alive. An evening of comedy and song, with accordion. Also: viewing of Kielbasia's vacation slides. \$5. 8pm. Each Wednesday in August. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes St. 864-7654.

Ringling Bros. Circus

The Greatest Show on Earth® features contortionists, strongmen, 16' pythons, fire breathers, highwire acts, trapeolinists, and, of course, elephants. \$20.50/\$11.50. Thru 8/23. 7:30pm weekdays (call for weekend times). New Arena in Oakland. Tickets at

BASS: (510) 762-2277. The show opens at San Francisco Cow Palace on 8/2.

Thur

Theater Artaud

June Jordan, acclaimed poet, essayist, political activist, and professor of Afro American Studies at UC Berkeley, will present an evening of poetry and spoken word as part of the fifth annual AFRO SOLO Festival. Co-sponsored by The Poetry Center of San Francisco State University. Free. 8pm. Preceded (at 7pm) by a poetry jam featuring Bay Area youth from The Black Dot Theater Collective of Oakland, Youth Speaks, and the San Francisco WritersCorps. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

Cowell Theater, Fort Mason

S.F. Butoh Festival. Two programs of expressionistic dance. Program one (8/20 & 8/22) features Katsura-Kan, Abe "M" Ria, and Yan-Shu. Program two (8/21 & 8/23) features Gustavo Collini-Sartor and Masahide Ohmori. \$15-\$20 (\$25-\$35 both programs). 8pm (Sun. 7pm). Info: 441-FMFS.

The Stud

"Drive," a queer electrofunk breakbeat dance club. Trip out and bounce off walls as deejays Kristo and Zanne spin out of control. Be propelled by hardhop trypano pedal-to-metal. Every Thursday, 10pm-2am. No cover. Queers and freaks of all genders welcome. The Stud, 9th & Harrison.

DragStrip

Fudgie Frottage hosts the club where gender bends over backwards, with DJ Sir Stephanie Phillips. \$3-\$5. Every Thurs. 9:30pm. 375 11th St. 331-9595. Ext. 300.

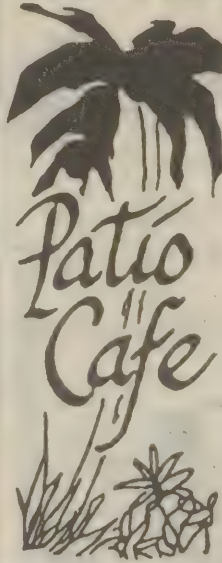
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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

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Fresh Atlantic Salmon grilled or poached in white wine, lemon-caper-butter sauce, rice or potatoes **10.50**

Spinach & Cheese Ravioli with basil pesto or marinara sauce, topped with grilled chicken breast **8.95**

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LEATHER SCENE

From Drummer judges to Closet Ball queens—all that and more!

by Mister Marcus

Last week Robert Davolt, operations manager at *Drummer Magazine*, announced the judges for the 1998 International Mr. Drummer Contest, the prestigious event scheduled to take place in San Francisco at the Russian Center on Saturday afternoon, September 26.

The list Davolt released represents a broad cross-section of various leather/SM personalities, from representative geographical locations, who have distinguished themselves in our leather nation. The judges will pick the 20th man to hold the coveted International Mr. Drummer 1998 title. The Mr. Drummer contestants themselves will, in turn, choose the International Drummer Boy.

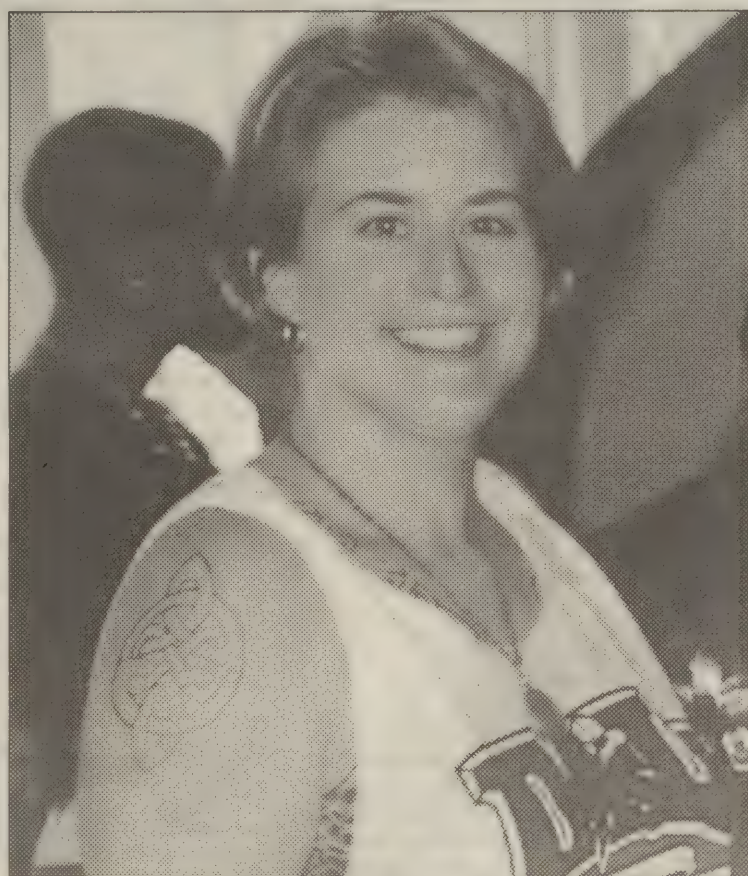
The line-up of judges is as follows:

- John Embry (San Francisco) — the man who started it all, original publisher of *Drummer Magazine*, who conceptualized the contest as a magnificent marketing tool for his publication. *Drummer* was basically the "outing" of leather/SM, and it was well received from the beginning. Embry's then-general manager, Patrick Batt, was instrumental in the success of the undertaking, as he had been with the first productions of International Mr. Leather while employed at Chicago's Gold Coast.

- Chuck Renslow (Chicago) — another leather man of vision, whose life has always been leather. He is the founder, executive producer, and guiding force of IML annually in Chicago. You couldn't ask for a more successful leather businessman than Mr. Renslow, whose love for his lifestyle gave him the impetus to stage the world's biggest and best leather competition weekend.

- John Weis (New York City) — leather activist and guiding light of the Gay Men's SM Association (GMSMA), John is responsible for the success of many leather fundraising events in the Big Apple, including Leather Pride Night and the new Folsom Street East outdoor fair. Well-liked and respected throughout leather nation, John oversees the implementation for Metro New York of safe, sane and consensual SM educational events.

- Dragon Xcalibur (Seattle) —



Here she is, Int'l. Ms. Leather '98 Megan DeJarlais of Philadelphia. She'll be in town for Int'l. Mr. Drummer and the Folsom Street Fair next month.

the first-ever FTM person to judge a major leather title event. *Drummer* once again exhibits its strong emphasis on diversity with the selection of Dragon, who is one of the most distinguished members of the Great Northwest leather tribes. Dragon recently served as Leather Ambassador for Washington State and amassed a sterling record of fundraising and educational outreach during his title year.

- Wickie Stamps (San Francisco) — one of the main forces behind the success of *Drummer*, who toiled long and hard as the editor for more months than can be determined. An unsung hero, both polite and unassuming but definitely cognizant of the leather/SM lifestyle, Wickie was one of the first women to be asked to judge the Mr. Drummer Europe contest.

- Andrew Lennox (Sydney, Australia) — the hunky first-runner-up to Tony Mills, IML 98, Andrew fills the foreign-judge position for this year's competition. He has traveled almost as much as Tony to various leather events and fundraisers. Astute and a charmer, Mr. Lennox knows what it takes!
- Jeffrey Adler (Miami) — Jef-

frey ends his year with the *Drummer* title on Saturday, September, 26 in San Francisco. His last "official" acts with the title will be to judge the contestants and drape the sash around the winner. He admits to having a fun year with the title, having traveled extensively for the past 12 months. It is always emotional to pass the sash, but some suspect the person who will be happiest to see it transferred is his hunky lover, one of the few "sash widows" who endured it all and stood by his man.

The tally masters again this year, Tim Wong and George Carreras, have developed a spectacular computerized scoring system that guarantees the final results in a minimum of time. Moreover, thanks to this ingenious tool, on the morning after the event every contestant and sponsor receives a print-out complete with graphs, charts, judges' scoring, and an analysis of where the contestants may have been weak and/or strong in all categories. Straight scoring is utilized for Mr. Drummer.

There you have it. Judging is an awesome responsibility, but each member of the panel is familiar with the leather title system and the leather/SM lifestyle in

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, August 13

Free STD (not HIV) testing at 2030, 933 Harrison, by Blow Buddies & City Clinic.

Masters & Slaves Together meet tonight at 1525 Mission with Dos and Dont's of Safe & Sane SM Play.

Big Basket contest at The Edge.

Saturday/Sunday, August 15-16

Open Studio (also a rent party) at 1229 Folsom, upstairs, by photographer Mark I. Chester, previewing works to be presented at Folsom Street Fair.

Saturday, August 15

Cal Eagles MC 1-day ride to Monterey & Pacific Grove, leaves Daddy's at 1000 in the morning. Call 267-0560.

Mr. Southern California *Drummer* contest at Probe in Los Angeles, (no details at presstime).

Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1500-1900 for \$7 with raffles, hot dogs.

Sunday, August 16

Constantines MC beer/soda bust, 2000-2300 at Daddy's.

GDI's stage MidSummer Madness at the Eagle, \$8, food, 1500-1800.

Counting my blessings

by Sweet Lips

Darlings, it's so easy to get carried away with petty complaints and belly-griping, so this week I'm counting off all the good things in my life — and yours too, if you live on ye olde Polkstrasse! So let us be grateful for:

1. Old friends. Join me at a birthday party (shhhh: it's a surprise!) for Kenny Allison and Greta Grass at the Giraffe on Saturday, August 15, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dennis, Duffy, Burt and David are providing the food, and since one of the guests of honor was once known as "Grazing Greta," there'll be a lot of it!

2. Memories. There will be a Celebration of Life for Mama Lynn, Ronnie Lynn's wonderful Mom, who passed away recently,

on Sunday, August 16, from 2-6 p.m. at the Rendezvous. And on Saturday, August 22, same bat-place: Empress José Sarria's book-signing and Farewell Party, as José is moving to Clearlake. Our loss — love the old broad.

3. Sports (and Sportsmens!). The Rendezvous, home of the original 49ers Party on Polk, will host a Tailgate Party with a kegger, noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 23. The 49ers will face the Miami Dolphins. Love those huddles!

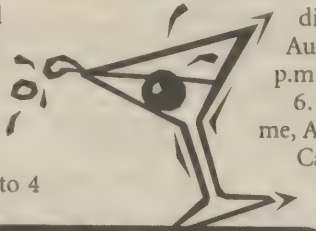
4. Living Large. Saturday the 22nd, the Lone Star Saloon has their very popular Girth & Mirth party: not much room, but lots of fun.

5. Ch-ch-ch-changes. Brian has left the Cinch Saloon for Russian

River, and Michael will be working there Friday through Tuesday, 6 a.m. to Noon. Tyler has left Kimo's and is now at Katie's (the old P.S.) Sunday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with a Grand Opening Party and dinner scheduled for August 14 & 15 at 7 p.m.

6. Eats. Don't cry for me, Argentina! The Evita Café at 199 Gough St. serves a fabulous Sunday brunch. They serve Argentine food, and the restau-

rant has all-new decor, bright and cheerful under the direction of owner Bill Hamilton, who is young and attractive. Great service, great food — a great find. Take it from your great auntie, Sweet Lips. ▼



Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

particular, so it is a dedicated, experienced and distinguished lot that will pick the 20th man to hold the title.

By the way, former Ms. San Francisco Leather, Queen Cougar, will be one of the event's emcees. Also at the contest, the Leather Anthem will be performed for the first time on the West Coast.

Tickets for International Mr. Drummer '98, to be held at the Russian Center in San Francisco, are on sale now. A ticket order-form can be found in Issue 211, or may be ordered from the Drummer offices (415-252-1195). Payment can be made with Visa, MC, Amex and Discover plastic. Forty percent of the VIP tickets (\$65) are gone already; tables for 10 persons are \$600. General admission price for SRO or balcony seats are \$25 either in advance or at the door. Allow 14 days for mail orders.

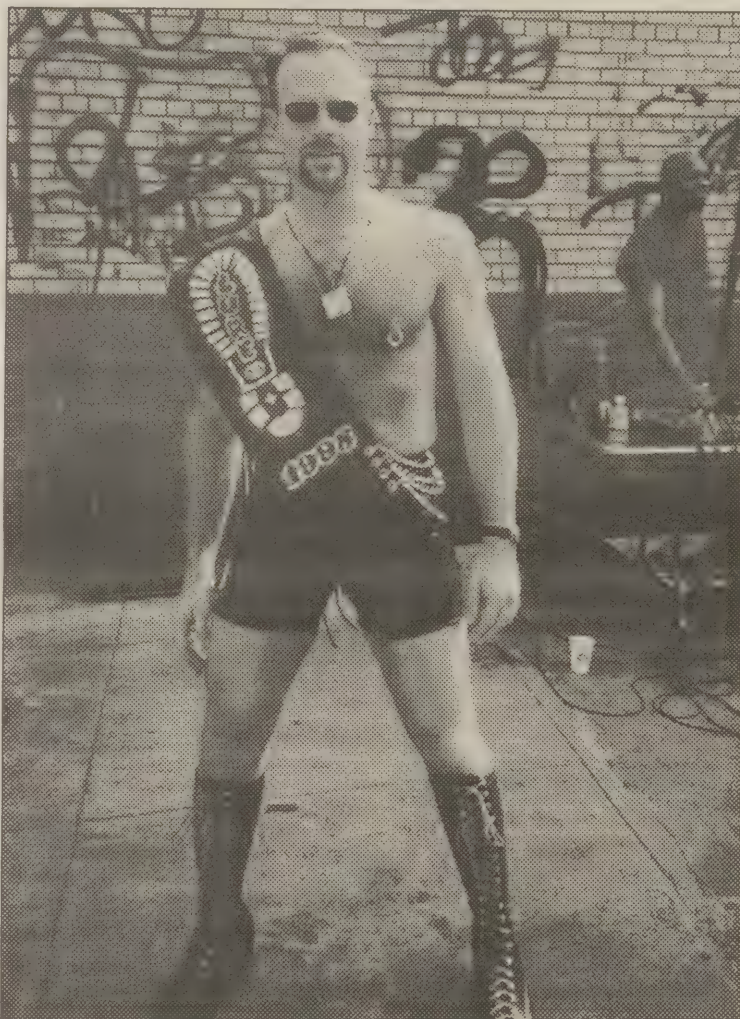
Judging the Closet Ball

San Francisco's leather tribe was very much in view over the weekend, celebrating diversity. First, a little wedding item:

As some of you may know, Carlos Larranaga, the creative leather designer at Image Leather, went to his first-ever IML last year and there met Allan Frederick from Denver at the Cell Block. Well, last Saturday, August 8, just a little over a year after that first happy encounter, the two made vows to each other at the Archbishop's Mansion Inn, an act witnessed by dozens from both their biological families and their leather families. The Rev. Cecil Williams performed the commitment ceremony, and it looks like Carlos will be heading for Denver in the near future. Of course, our best wishes for all future success to the happy couple!

A few hours later, 13 "never-before-been-in-drag" dudes entered the always-entertaining 25th edition of the Annual Closet Ball. A big crowd was on hand for the glittery evening, where everyone was dressed to the nines.

Donna Sachet and T.J. Istvan proved to be delightful emcees, helping to move the show along at a rapid clip. Leather interest in this event was stimulated by the entries of Scott Peterson, manager of the Powerhouse, and Bob Brunson of the leathery River Business Bar up at the RushRiv, who was co-sponsored by that bar and Daddy's.



At last we see him! Mr. LURE Leather of New York, John Zimmerman, who will compete at IML next May 1999.

With the lusty provocative voices of Gail Wilson accompanied by City Swing and the vivacious Sheba, the entertainment was superb, not to mention the dancers, choreographed by Jim Edwards.

The show was a crowning achievement for Jason Ladd as the producer/director.

You know the premise: contestants come out in butch attire, and after their creators finish re-making them in just one hour, they reappear in female drag. Whichever stud makes the most believable transition wins.

As one of the judges (yours truly was there along with Joan Jett Blakk, Bobby Wong, Gary Virginia, Gene Price, Hector Caceres, Jessica St. Jon of Dallas, and Empress Ginger), picking the winner was no easy task. The transitions were all believable, but in the end #13 proved to be Jeffrey Watts' lucky number, and it was he who earned the title. The 1st runner-up was Bob Brunson as "Sky," and the 2nd runner-up was Ivan Cano. Contestant #1, "Berlin," was named Ms. Congeniality. It was a fun night! Rack up another success for executive producer Bob

Golovich.

Distinguished data

Word is out in Manhattan that the new DV8 leather store is doing very, very well. With the likes of Fred Katz, Irwin Kane and Mitch Pierce partnering, it is all the rage in the Big Apple, and while we miss the former San Francisco entrepreneurs, you are urged to visit this erotic emporium next time you're in New York.

And speaking of leather entrepreneurs, my e-mail list was flooded with quips about a certain SF leather-shop owner who was seen at the Gauntlet II in Los Angeles completely bound in latex and having his drinks fed to him with a straw by a "smarmy boy" (their words, not mine). And all this time we thought he was a top!

Flash from Amsterdam: Sam Medrano, a member of the Golden Gate Guards MC, won a silver medal in the Masters Division in Physique at the Gay Games. Sam is celebrating by staying in Europe for two more weeks and attending the big leather weekend in Hamburg. Couldn't have happened to a nicer dude! ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Mike @ B. Buddies 6/5/98

You're Hot in blue coveralls in patio stall. I told you I was Robert of Palo Alto. I want to reconnect with you. You say you're Filipino? 3100

Arun, Sun Morning, Universe

Can't seem to forget you're sparkle, nor your sensuality. Let's have a date soon. Please call *Kiss* Mark. 3101

Horny Goblin

Saw your sign in the window. Hairy ogre would like to feed you.... 3102

Daniel Gay Pride Day

We talked at End-Up. You just got back from pain. We agreed to meet at Mass (1015) We misconnected. Would like to hang out-James. 3103

Manifest So Co

Harmony next day. You & P goatee. Me & P stache. We said Hello. Want to talk? 3104

Gay Day Parade

You: Handsome WM, tall, blonde crewcut, built, leaning on barricades. Me: In cop car in parade. You waved expressed interest. I called back "promises, promises" wish I'd gotten out to talk. 3200

Cute Longhaired guy Cala 7/2

You were going camping for the long weekend. I was the longhaired guy in front of you. I'm not as bold as my friend, but I'd enjoy meeting again. 3201

Phil, dancing county western

With you was great! I wish we could do it again soon, but how to reach you? I hope your dance card isn't filled! Anthony. 3202

Steve of Noe Valley VIA TN VIA

UK parents. Gay Day at Badlands. We were attracted but unable to verbalize effectively. Now that we are sober, let's talk! 3203

Mike, Safeways Market St.

Hey Mike! You Carhart overalls dark hair and moustache. Me: Carhart trousers, moustache. We met back in mid May would still love to hear from you. B. 3204

Muni underground 6pm 7/14

You: Biked hair, stach, we have talked on the J. & passed each other on 24th st. Both looked back. Want to talk to you. David. 3600

Jason at Pride

Me: beard, dark green plaid shirt. Told you that the FPD shirt looked good on you. Got nervous and left when your friend returned. Would love to see you again without either of them. 3205

Mission/24th BART

Mark: Met on BART day of Pride Parade. Did not get your number. Very interested in meeting again. Paul. 3300

Michael 7/6 Appointment missed.

Crossed signals, thought you were someone else. You were the one. Try again? David. 3301

John from Pleasanton

We met early morning, July 4th, in Hayward lot. You were tired, I was cold. I would give anything to see your smile again. Please call me 3302

1200 block Sacramento St. 8/1

Me: Red shirt, you: shorts not sure if you were interested. Pls call. 3601

Chris of Glenn Park

U came to my basement mass rm for BJ early this year, return visit? Please call Jack. 3303

Rory

It's a rare chance when special people meet. It was great being with you. I'll always remember. When will I see you again? Troy.. 3328

Kevin from Hong Kong

Met on N Judah 6/30. You: beautiful smile and very sweet. Me: tall, blond, and very interested. Want to have lunch? 3400

Sunday July 19 @ Baker beach

You were in a lawn chair. I invited you to throw the football. Your name is Will. Please call me. 3401

Don 7/02 @ the Powerhouse

We couldn't get a cab and I forgot to give you my number. Give me a call. Kevin. 3402

Mike- Architect, Sun 7/12 10am

Church t. Muni. You were going to swim. Me to church. You were reading a novel. I want to know how the plot thickens. Loved your smile. Call me -- Bobby. 3404

Royal exchange Tue/7/14 12:30pm

You: brown and white shirt, with friend, waiting for booth. Me: brown leather jacket, /P hair, leaving with friend. We exchanged smiles--more than once. You're so handsome! Let's connect! 3405

7/16 early am BART Civic ctr.

5:30 am you in train looking out at me. We've played twice @ Mack. Me: Kangol hat, short Latin, you: tall blonde goatee, you intrigue me... 3406

Teus/14approx10am little H'wood

Laundry. You: Dark skin, hair, glasses wearing blue Adidas pants & white T. shirt. Me: Blonde caucasian, glasses wearing T-shirts and jeans. Traded looks, waved goodbye. Would have said more. 3407

Donatelo..

Where are you buddy? My butt is hungry for your dick & my dick for yours too! The curious OFA. Meet me @ our rendezvous. 3501

Randy from Daly City Fri 7/18

Met you at the 24 hr fitness on Post t. Asked your nationality (Chinese). Talked about your job (paint dept), writing, etc. Want to talk again. Please call. 3502

Marc from Marin-Blond hairy..

I met you at Cafe Flore, un., evening, 7/19, I'd just come from the gym. Your number was wrong. Mistake?? Rupe. 3503

Joey @ Folsom Gulch Sun 7/19

You thought my name was Darrell. Your sensuous lips & piercing eyes won't let me forget our hot & sweaty hour. How bout encore? 3504

Dore Alley fair

You: Green hat, white tank top, purple converse. Me: I told you: "You're the cutest man at the Fair". Would like to meet and compare... 3505

Asian w/furry legs @ Safeway 7/22

You: shorts, great legs, glasses w/friend. Me: b/bearish in jeans/white t-shirt, behind you at checkout @ 7:26pm. We smiled, you said bye, and left in black convertible. Let's talk more! 3506

Chris @ Pleasuredome 8/2

Me: Desert storm army hat, Levis, 5'8", no shirt, shakin my groove thang. I had the pleasure of introducing myself to you in the restroom. I admired your physique. You said I have a hot ass... I think you are a God! I long to worship you, savoring every inch of your fucking Godlike hot, hot, body. Unfortunately you were with someone.. My tight bubble butt gripping your big fat beautiful man-tool as it slides in-n-out of me = Heaven. If there is one thing you must do, it is pick up the phone and call my box #: I promise you won't regret it!!! Thanks for the taste/tease (Hot!!!), I'm still drooling. More please.... Clifford. 3555

Noe Valley Fri 7/31 4:30pm

You, Bk hair, stach, we have talked on the J. & passed each other on 24th st. Both looked back. Want to talk to you. David. 3600

24 Divisadero Wed. Pm July 15

Sat across from you. Both of us are bearded, I was wearing olive green suit. Wish I had time to give you my phone number. 3403

Fri 7/31 37 Corbett bus after 7pm

You: handsome GWM, brn hair, blud plaid shirt w/nature co. bag. Me: GBM pink polo & gym bag both very shy but found courage to smile wanna get together? 3603

Casey in Goden Gate Park

Wednesday July 22 late afternoon. You: runner, slim cruising. Me: teve bearded runner, accepted offer WOW!! tumbled away breathless... Let's date, cuddle. Call my box # and leave # pls. 3610

Sat. 8/1, 24th and Chruch muni.

You were reading, "I Claudius". I'm the tall, dark-haired guy. We spoke about how muni sucks. I wish I had gotten us a taxi.. I'd love to see you again. Call me. 3602

Dog- 17th St. and Eureka

Wandering about, no collar.... No master.... at August 15 noon. Be there! Got collar... Got leash... and a good home for you. 3604

Safeway Dk Blu cap-car w/rack

Blue shirt, clean, dark, adrian pasdar-like features. 7/27-6pm. Me: Bm, good soul. tucking cap w/tail, white shirt, glasses. Incognito that day. Want to show you my unday best. 3605

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Awsome round bubble-butt!

I want it. Need it. Ride it. Want a 40-80 yr old. White, HIV-, masculine anal bottom with 33"-42" waist. I am 5'9", 170 and black. 3106

At-A-Glance

Unique, goodlooking GWM, 6', 170lbs. Kind, passionate, playful, sincere. Into: music, arts, nature, cooking, gardening etc. eeks: GWM, 24-42yo full of personality, fun, goodlooking, casual, charming. Dating: goal LTR. 3107

Seek meaningful relationship

Me: ensual, sexy trim spiritual, sweet GW Mediterranean 5'2". You: Handsome 30s GWM, spiritual romantic, sincere, gentle, masculine type HIV-. Drug, alcohol free for dating and possible LTR. 3108

Sonoma Co. Country guy

6', 180#, sports loving 46yo ISO hirsute, sexually dominant gent to shar quiet evenings, good wine, laughter, 49er games, and passionate man-to-man sex. LTR? 3109

Spoil me!

Adventurous, attractive 23yo wants to experience the finer things in life. eeking a youthful, stable, financially secure gentleman to show me around, teach, and care for me. 3110

Vert attractive

26yo WM 5'11" seeks older generous top for LTR. ophisticated and kinky a+. 3111

GWM 38 In E. Bay seeks?

Male 18-35, for my first MtM relationship. I'm 5'10", 180, U should be 18-35 clean shaven nice attitude, no drugs prefer E. Bay. 3112

1+1=1

Smart, easygoing, dependable, romantic, caring AM, 32, 5'6", 165#, HIV-, seeks similar A/W men, 29-35, in E. Bay for dating and possible LTR. 3113

Masseur/Bodybuilder wanted

Prof. WM, semi-retired, very hirsute, seeks a healthy male for wkly date. Excellent remuneration. Pref. East Bay. 3114

Positive romance

GWM, 45, 5'11", 185lbs., dark hair(mostly gone and cropped short), dark eyes, moustache, hairy, great shape, masculine, romantic, intelligent, funny, professional, mostly top, loves kissing, LTR oriented. HIV+ healthy. 3115

Attractive Asian

30yo, professional, sexy, medium built but proportioned very smooth without body hair and good looking seeking caucasian 25-40 who is sincere, smart for possible LTR. Tall and muscular and goodlooking guys A+. 3116

Cute African American

27, 5'6", 165lb seeks HIV- guys 23-35. Be goodlooking who enjoy beach walks, dinners, dancing, etc. I seek a top for friend ship & a possible LTR. 3117

My guys all wanna repeat!

No I guess my kind of no-nonsense, relationship free, anonymous cocksucking--valuing big load over big dicks-- works. Let your own nice stiff dick give it a whirl! 3118

Attn: All American boys

You: GWM, 18-28, attractive lean, healthy, frisky! Me: GWM, 25, good looking, in-shape, athletic, frisky! Us: hanging out, movies, good times, Lattes, sound fun? 3206

Hiv+ Latin

31yo, 6', 165#, dark hair, eyes, goatee. ISO a LTR that starts w/conversation not sex, UB Latin or white w/similar interests, age, ht/wt. Call let's talk over coffee. 3207

Free man wanted....

All races be own age imaginative, happy. Me: same (50, w, HIV-) physical. 3208

ISO Eastern European male

Wanted: E. E. male 20-40yrs, versatile, horny, with a good attitude who likes to laugh for dating and orgasms. Me: handsome Californian 40s, 5'9", 156lb, tight body, go do it kind of guy. 3209

Look no further

GLM 31, 5'10" 175lbs. In very good shape & handsome. ISO GWM top 25-35yrs old, you shld be in good shape, goodlooking and very masc. pref. E. Bay for friendship or possible LTR. 3210

Take a "Walk in the clouds!"

Marin-Sonoma country guy, GWM, seeks city connections. Dating: goal LTR. Very goodlooking genuine, fun, communicative. You: GWM under 44yo, willing to get-to-know, goodlooking, adventurous. Me: 6', 170lbs. 3211

Mi Amor...

Searching for that special one.. With big heart and penetrating eyes of sincerity. Me: 29yo 6' lovable Latino looking to share sunny Padres games and romantic dinners for two. 3212

Corporate by day Lthr by night..

Preppy PGWM, 40, 6', smart financially/emotionally secure. ISO same, 40-55 who looks as good in a suit as jeans, boots and a harness. Date first, LTR later. 3213

Temporary boyfriend wanted...

Me: 34, 160#, 5'6", br/br, stache, nice bod, artist. You: mature, honest, passionate, sense of humor, likes the finer things in life. Handsome, exotic. 3215

New to SF

GWM, 6'2", 175#, young 40s, cute, clean cut, smooth, top HIV-. ISO similar guy who is lean, romantic and playful. Desire fun times & LTR. e maller guys A+ too! 3216

Bear Cub Seeks Daddy

27yo Attractive, sensitive, shy bear. eeks a strong, tactile mento top for LTR. 3105

Brotha to Brotha

If you need a guy with a warm heart, sharp wit and big dick--then I'm your man. If you have similar attributes, is healthy, and under 50 years old!! 3217

GM 24yrs 5'7" 128lbs...

Brown eyes/hair European looking for G or B1 19 to 40 yrs professional or student HIV- handsome with nice personality. 3218

Boy needs his Daddy-Master

GWM 30, 5'10", Lean, husky, br/br, HIV+, healthy. Looking for a relationship/ownership with 35-45yo, safe, sane, daddy/master taller and more muscular tha the boy is. This boy is part yuppy and needs to be trained in a good home! 3219

Dark complexioned?

Intelligent blue eyed cutie 37 seeks Mediterranean like man (20s-40s) for passionate encounters, LTR? Appealing 6', 165lbs, endowed, HIV-. Nice smile. 3220

Friendship and more

I'm a GWM, 39yrs 5'8" 150lbs. Goodlooking in-shape. Looking for GWM close honest friends, 35-45. ex ok, but want more. Like outdoors-camping hiking. 3304

Loved to be fucked

On a regular, steady, relationship by Asian and Black men. ide your wet dick into my bottom and plow me a long time. You won't be disappointed. 3305

Wtd Healthy young married male

Prof WM, semi-retired, seeks a healthy married or single male for wkly date. No recip. required, pref East Bay. 3306

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. 3307

Father figure.

Older British gentleman, kindly former head master, accepts naughty persons for hand spanking & more. 3308

Strong body strong heart

Musculine, creative, good-natured, health Poz, HIV/WI prop, gym-dedicated, GWM, 6', 185#, 45, balding/buzz, N/S, ISO similar for dating and LTR., Tall and or lean A+. 3408

Make me fatter! Sensual bottom

Up to 50# fatter! GWM, 6'11", 250#, ex-jock look with big sensual gut and etc. Weight lifting for definition. Exceptionally healthy HIV+. Homeowner, bright, happy, romantic, more!! outh Bay/Peninsula. 3409

Seeking masculine top

WM, attrac, 45, 5'7", 151, good-shape, HIV-, seeks WM, balding, good-shape, masc top. You are a good person, established, and like outdoors. 3410

Seeking LTR bottom GWM

34yo top GAM friendly, good-looking, muscular, smooth body and romantic, seeks healthy GWM 36-45, sweet guy, honest, N/S, N/D, handsome. Let's get together. 3411

Mature GWM seeking friendship

I treasure openness, warmth, romance, intimacy, and enjoy the outdoors, performing arts, classical music, conversation. 6', 160lbs, bl/blu. 3412

Maximum mix

Me: Chocolate; 6'+; 45+; 190+; HIV-. You: Vanilla; 6'+; 45+; 190+; HIV-. uch a delicious month of undaes we can make for a lifetime! 3413

ISO GBM/GLM partner 4 butterfly

GWM, 45, 6', 160, affectionate, NS, HIV-, beard/moustache, seeks friendly, emotionally available GBM/GLM, NS, to get off on (safe) butterfly, intimacy. Possible relationship. Facial hair A+. 3414

Want fir friendly relation

BIB/WM seeks cute first boyfriend. You're an honest, patient, doer, who loves to laugh. I'm 5'10", 200#, 30yr., swimmer. Loves dancing, live music shows, movies, sports. 3415

HIV+ Eastbay Top wanted

HIV+ bottom, 36, 6', 185, blue, brown, healthy, seeks top to smuggle with in Concord/Antioch area. LTR with local dark hair, brown eyed, smoker. 3416

Master ISO full-service slave

For BD, M, FF, boot training, toilet training, boot service. You: Intellectual, classical music under 35, less than 5'10", slim. Me: call and find out. Relationship oriented. 3417

Would you mine if I'm Asian?

Hawaiian Filipino 30's, 5'5" 148 HIV+ versatile bottom smooth, affectionate & honest. eeking for a masc, top-man in shar or stocky built. For romance to nasty hot times, friendship, poss. relationship. Interests: cuddling kissing & massages. A+ Europeans, Middle Eastern, Latins & (Irish) men. 3507

FI/AM Handsome hot tight deep!

46yo bottom, 5'9", 160lbs, br/br, clean shaven, prof emp, 18 acting, D/A free, I smoker. Insatiable bottom seeks LTR with tops 8+ only, any race, East Bay, loves good smoke. 3508

Brown man seeks friends..

I'm 42, 170lbs, HIV-, 6'11", into music massage, gardening. On spiritual path. I live in a small cabin in the forest. Looking for loyal friends. ND, NS, & not looking for sex buddy. 3509

Harmony

Handsome, sexy GWM, 44, 6'1", 155, with sharp mind, firm body and caring, sensitive soul seeking GAM with similar attributes for LTR. 3510

Young black ISO older GWM

I'm 25 5'10" cute smooth firm slim sexy body. You are white collar, affluent classy sexy muscular body over 35 we both desire discreet safe sensual relationship. 3511

Boyfriend search

GBM, 41, 5'10", 190lbs, outgoing, humorous, athletic enjoys cultural and sporting events, seeks man for outdoor adventure and indoor intimacy. LTR serious. 3512

Hot Rod Leo wanted

You are oral, clean shaven, big feet, top stud and lustful. Eager to show off your bulge to a slender, smooth, cute asian and become his dream lover. Great sex! 3513

Looking for Asian love & lust

Me: GWM, 50, 6', slim, hairy beard, sincere; love travel, hikes, talks, cuddling; sexually versatile; in Redwood city. You: GAM, younger, slim, smooth, romantic, honest, sexy; an Jose to F. 3620

Growing intimacy, friends, sex..

GWM, 6'4", 195, intelligent, HIV-, beard-ed, 46, into projects, creativity, adventure, collecting, camping, seeks loving, intelligent, responsible, healthy, tall, H/wt proportionate, 25-40 man for reciprocity. 3514

Discreet cock play buddy

Seeking warm sincere guy into giving pleasurable sensations to each others cock & balls J/O licking 69 & lots of kissing. ☎ at, ☎ un, discreet daytime play your place. GWM 51 smooth 5'10", 164#, warm, sensitive, sincere nice guy. ☎ 3234

Hungry for cock blond

Fit late 30s, ISO GWM dark hair earthy, 35-45, h/wt proportionate, HIV-, I suck while you shoot loads. ☎ ize no thrill, just quality cum pumping. ☎ 3235

Whatever you can make me do...

White, proportional, 36, HIV-, clean-shaven cut, short hair. Respond to power. I'll do what you're strong enough to make me do. ☎ 13236

Slightly kinky submissive....

Oral Black bottom seek top or dominant top verbal a plus available in eve and some weekends. ☎ 3237

Cyclist seeks cyclist

Who's into racing? & has great shaved legs. I'm a GWM into cycling, speedskating and healthy lifestyles. Discreet, no strings. ☎ 3238

Latin-White Mix man..

5'10" 155lb, 30s, dark hair-eyes, hot body, pretty face washboard abs. ISO fitness stud 20-40 for excellent vanilla sex. This ad worth answering! Local. ☎ 3239

Seeking hungry mouth

Masculine, sexy, hairy, little bear with pure top energy seeks hungry, talented buddy for long, hot sessions of oral worship and service. Be verbal, imaginative, dominant, HIV-, healthy and sane. ☎ 3309

Nude socials for seniors?

I've enjoyed several. We're excluded from most ads so let's create our own celebration of maturity and manhood. Hotel chip in and direct phone # required. ☎ 3310

Men 40 60 HIV- slim any race

I jack off sucking cock and a lot more. WM cocksucker 5'11" 160 slim. Want to know more? Phone. ☎ afe sex only. ☎ 3311

Hung top daddy wants a boy!!

Blond, handsome 8 1/2" thick and uncult, in-shape, 38, goatee, hairy chest wants boy-ish in-shape guys for pumping and playing lets have some good clean fun!! ☎ 3312

Put up or shut up!!

GWM 35, HIV+, average looking and well endowed and versatile. I know how to use my body parts. ☎ o put up or shut up!! ☎ 3313

Gulp it down real deep

WM 40s HIV-, very masculine dominant verbal seeks very submissive HIV- cocksucker with obedient tongue and hungry deep throat, for regular long sessions at your place in ☎ F. ☎ 3314

Bound and blindfolded fuck trip

Tie me up in very nasty explicit way showing my manhole then fuck my hole. Be creative- do you read bound and gagged use scene from a hot story. ☎ 3315

Don't waste my time

Handsome muscular hung Italian seeks hot men n boys for sex not chit-chat serious sex hungry hung dudes only! ☎ 3316

Always horny? Get sucked!

Well-hung, trim, W/guys kick back for sensuous blow job hot mouth, tonguing. Married, divorced welcom. ☎ 3317

Always on the hunt!

Italian, GWM, 42, 5'10", 180# hairy, good physical and mental shape. ☎ ks GWM, hairy for mutual oral and anal pleasures. Weekdays A+. ☎ 3318

Hot phone sex..

Strip, put your nipple clamps on get your cock up have lube handy, and let's have fun! ☎ 3319

Get naked kick back get sucked!

Great blow jobs for horny white, masc, trim guys with generous, cut, man sized cocks & balls. ☎ 3320

Totally muscular bottom

WM, 30s 5'10" 155lbs extra handsome, cut abs, bubble butt. The real deal. ISO, 20-40s, Top W/B for hot man sex pos plus, be fit, hung, & confident. ☎ 3321

Slim or small men 18-40 wanted

By 54yo CMT Masseur for free professional, unhurried, nurturing, ☎ wedish Massage and Bodywork followed by optional Taoist erotic warm oil massage. Nonmuscular or skinny A +, daytime Haight Panhandle area. ☎ 3322

Do you like it hard and big?

8 1/2 inches of fat uncult meat that will reach places you didn't think possible. If so this handsome blond hairy chested top wants to play and fill you up!!! ☎ 3323

Stroking pleasure & play

GWM, HIV-, reg clean cut guy, 51, 6', 164#, seeks xtra play w/a nice discreet guy who has a place for sat, sun, daytime pleasure for holding, undressing each other w/lots of kissing, stroking, oral. Giving e/other pleasure that j/o alone can't give. ☎ 3418

User friendly hole to fuck

For serious tops who want easy ram access & down-loading. GBM 5'11" slim swimmers bld., masc, goatee, easy-going, ready for hard-drive. You H/Wt prop., call now access granted. ☎ 3419

Hot Latino seeking hot cock

GWM 5'11" 170 HIV- n/d. Like to suck a hot 6" cock & get fucked and more, race & age no factor, video also, please call. ☎ 3420

Make me!

I want to be stripped, fucked, fisted and made to choke on your anything but vanilla cum. White, 35, 5'10", 170, HIV-. ☎ 3421

Attention HIV- ex-cons

GWM 50s, 5'10", 150#, looking for trim black, white, or latin straight or gay men for oral sex. No reciprocation necessary. Having men watch A +. ☎ 3422

Afternoon sex buddy wanted

I'm a top, oral give/take. Hugs & kisses too. Me: atrac, GWM, 48, 6'5", 250lbs, football player build, brown hair/moustache hairy ches/stomach. You: atrac, GM(white, asian, latin), slim, smooth/moderate body-hair, nice buns. ☎ 3629

Poz musclebear ISO same

Hunky, hairy, poz muscle bear skinhead, hungry for rough action with very hairy musclebears. Mutual pecwork, punching, cock play and fucking, my hairy chest on your hairy back. ☎ 3424

SF Daddy seeks son & playmate

51, GWM, 6'3", 230#, shaved head, moustache, goatee, hairy, seeks 18-30yo, slender, smooth, hung, GWM to mento & play with. ☎ 3425

Big & fat

GBM, 44yo, 5'11", 240lbs, seeks big, heavy and pleasantly fat men for uninhibited sexual connection. My size or bigger only. Discretion. ☎ 3426

If you're man enough!

I'm bottom enough! 48, 5'8", 140#, HIV+ GWM. Well-hung, Nam Vet looking for hairy well hung top for :lay and possible relationship! ☎ 3427

Black oral pro wanted

Well endowed uncult BM ISO mature experienced BM needed to take me deep at your place. Looks unimportant. Looking for exceptional cocksucking on a regular basis. ☎ 3428

GWM seeking oral anal service

On a regular basis. I am 55yo, 5'2", 120#. You must love to work my ass, ball's, 7"cock. I like sucking big cock, race, age, unimportant. ☎ F, Marin, Richmond. ☎ 3429

Dog seeks long term master

GWM 40s needs severe dog training, daily dog food, permanent leash and collar, cage. All forms of psycho/sexual abuse, personality extinction. Put paid for my abduction in parting glances. Woof. ☎ 3430

Balls brimming w/creamy cum?

Then call my emergency cocksucking service, (always open) that values big loads over big dicks, not only any day but also anytime. Tonight? ☎ 3522

No Teeth!

If this sounds interesting (or useful). Please call. Masc. GWM seeks same 60yo, 5'8", DK/DK must. ☎ 3523

Young husbands get sucked!

Married guys need lots of hot cocksucking GWM sucks u days/eves complete priv., no reciprocation multiple loads A +. ☎ 3524

Men in suits Montgomery St.

Gays in 3-pc-ers get hot daytime suk break by pro cocksucker trim, hunky only no flab, married welcome. ☎ 3525

Your place or mine...

Hotcocksucking for hot, hunky, trim, cut WM by GWM days or eves, lots a ball lickin + cock sucking cum 2x or ? ☎ 3554

ISO of men in Richmond

Mature GWM 5'2" HIV- & a friendly small bottom, like to suck & deep throat. Then you fuck my little ass serious. Age, race, unimportant. ☎ 3526

Looking for a "Third" Top

2 hot WM, 28, 5'9", 165#, goatee & 45, 6', 175#, bd/mst. both versatile top into sex. ☎ 3527

Horny? Kick back & feed me!!!

Bottom Italian stud, 45, 6', 175#, ☎ &P, buzzcut, moustache, beard, insatiable mouth, receptive bottom & loves to eat ass. Castro. 12-Sam. ☎ 3528

GLM bottom ISO GWM top

For discreet encounters, evenings. Me: Nice, Italian, GWM, 42, 5'10", 180# hairy, good physical and mental shape. ☎ ks GWM, hairy for mutual oral and anal pleasures. Weekdays A+. ☎ 3318

Top this!!

GBM 38, easy-going 6', 195lbs, hairy, looking for a top who is also easy-going and loves to have fun. ☎ 3530

Muscular men only get tiedup..

Milked and sensually tormented. Respect limits discrete, experienced top. No fat or affirmative please. A macho experience, submit!.... ☎ 3531

Master 67 requires young slave.

18-40, eager head & ass, into humiliation, bondage, collars, spanking, restaurant, branding studded nipples, dick. HIV- relocate to country, have transportation apply master. ☎ 3532

Turned on by a bulging basket?

Like to jack off in your Levis? ☎ how your package? Think about taking a leak? GWM, 40's, seeks others who get off on keeping it on. Younger A+. ☎ 3533

Dad needs bottom boy

Assplay-erotic spanking. Dominant topman, 48, 6'5", 250, football players build, brown hair/moustache, hairy chest & stomach. You: Attractive, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, nice buns. ☎ 3542

Got ass and body and money..

Sexy Blk top 24, seeks attractive, hung, bottoms with open holes. ☎ panking, fisting, toys, video s, exhibitionist. Be lubed and I will dominate. ☎ 3534

Hairy ass Iranian

Gd looking, body builder, Gr. eyes, goatee, 37yo, needs tall young guy who likes to fuck and stretch my ass; couples welcome also. ☎ 3535

Frisky shyboy

Not sure about a relationship, but in the meantime this cute, slender, versatile boy has needs! Me: 29, 5'10", 130#, hung, cut, br/hzl, med hairy. You: 30-50, tall, hairy, hung, and ready for hot, safe, sensual encounters. ☎ 3536

A-1 oral service-Delivered

SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 3537

Couple wants 3rd person

GWM/GAM couple want 3rd for funtime. We are both masculine and in shape. You should be the same and HIV-. Latino or white preferred. ☎ 3538

Sit on my face

Well built top, hung big needs well built WM (20s-30s) with big firm hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 3539

Bear seeks opposite

Big boned, hairy, handsome GWM, 5'11", 210lbs, 54, silver and bald. You: Passionate in your pursuits and explorations HIV-. ☎ 3540

Asians serviced

WM, 50, provides oral service for asian cock, balls, ass, tits, armpits, just kick back and enjoy total body worship. Big cock, uncult or muscular a +. ☎ 3541

Just shut up and ride!

WM, 33, 5'10", 200lb, blond/blue, muscle hunk (48" c, 32" w, 18" arms) wants good looking masculine men to pump or get jerked. Also love to get massaged and pumped. Anytime! ☎ 3543

Wanted: Big mean man

To bend me over and fuck the hell out of me! Looking for hot horny aggressive and well-muscled top to put me in my place. I am 27 blond, green eyed smooth boy into bondage slapping spanking it toys public sex & big dick! ☎ 3544

Eastbay Dad looking for boy..

Into bondage/submission/training. 18-35, some experience but eagerness to learn/please A+. Me-40s, inshape, experienced, sadistic but sane, limits respected expanded over time. ☎ 3623

Older experienced cocksucker

Seeking blow-job sessions in Berkeley area. Are you looking to lay back and direct the action? No reciprocation, ages 40-55. Younger/older considered. ☎ 3624

Sonoma Co Daddy

Wants to be dominated by cute, slender boy, 18-35. Flaunt it, tease me, make me beg, the sit on my face, fuck my mouth. ☎ 3625

Asian-Making love to camera

Bi-Asian, 5'7", 133lbs, 8", smooth, slim, big beautiful eyes, seeks mature playmate who also enjoys taking personal glamour erotic pictures/videos at tropical settings. Ravish me at the beach. ☎ 3626

Long, deep, often...

let's get locked in a body knot, my shoulders under your legs, your ass sucking my dick, tongues together, herb/aroma ok. Dad, 50, 6', hairy. ☎ 3627

GWM 40 seeks younger guys for..

Sex, no relationship just plain hard sex. You submissive bottom boy 18-30. Me: hard hung top. Love to suck and be sucked. ☎ 3628

Friendly cocksucker

Not into relationship; anonymous sex is cool. Anyone up for a friendly, one-time thing? I'm ok looking, 28, 160#, HIV- and like guys in their 40s. ☎ 3630

Submissive raunchy pig bottom

Slim muscular tattooed 38 140lbs seeks hot aggressive nasty hung and fit top guy to take control and fuck white ass senseless. Black and group scenes a +. ☎ 3631

Your sweet body....

Let my tongue, lips, and finger tips set your body on fire. You under 45, HIV-, disease/drug free. Let me curl your toes. Own place. Discrete. ☎ 3632

Oral slave

Expert service mouth loves long session pleasing hands-on interactive topman, clean, no injury, no drugs. oakland WM, 52, 5'8" 170# fit solid bald beard mobile, in or out. ☎ 3633

Tongue stud

Gets me hard. Looking for sexy, playful WM, 20s-30s with tongue piercing and talent for using it. Me: WM, 29, 5'8", 145lbs, bl/bl, pierceless, will reciprocate. ☎ 3634

Got Dick? Need relief?

Great cocksucker dad, 47, works hung B/W/L boys 30s/40s, juicy ☎ F sessions. Car helpful. ☎ satisfied studs cum back for more. ☎ 3635

Top tag teams

Insatiable goodlooking bottom seeks 2 well hung studs. 2 hot holes await 2 swollen members for deep satisfaction. Tag off, or team up! ☎ 3636

Going down?

GWM, 41, 5'8", 140#, dark hair, hairy. Looking for GWM 35-45 for hot mutual oral pleasures, passion, kissing. Ready willing and able! ☎ 3637

J/O friend buddy

WM, 43, 6', 175#, br/br, good looking, in-shape, hairy chest, not into scene, HIV-, seeks similar discreet athletic WM (bi-curious) for regular steady meetings; smooth a + 3638

Latino oral play buddy wanted

Handsome ☎ F GWM, trim, HIV-, br/br, seeks fit masculine Latino, fuckbuddy: 30-50, HIV-, ND/NS, for mutual J/O, BJ, ball-work, deep kissing, and other oral fun. ☎ 3639

Sexy bottom for tall tops

Total bottom (oral/anal) 5'8" smooth, salt&pepper, small stache seeks tall well-endowed HIV- GWM tops to service, eves and weekends. ☎ 3640

Let's go and have a safe sex...

I like to get fucked! Redwood city area, 26yo, hot and in need! ☎ 3641

Sit on my face!

Hot Italian stud, 45, 6', 175#, ☎ &P, buzzcut, Bd/Mst, ISO: studs who like to be rimmed & sucked off. Castro location 12-Sam. ☎ 3642

Longhair looking.....

29, Blond/blu, VGL, 6'2", 175#, seeking other longhair dudes for extended play, tantra, tender jungle sex. ☎ afe only! ☎ 3643

Extremely Hairy redhead wanted

By very hairy bearded skinhead rasserler for fun-grinding fun! Don't have BBor retty-boy, just strong,tough, hairy all over, ready for rompin' good rough-house fun! ☎ 3644

Suck off and more!

Your cock in my mouth.. My tongue in your piss slit. Your balls full of protein and bladder full of hot piss. ☎ ame day/night call back. Be under 35. ☎ 3645

Asian guys read this

I'm looking for a nice Asian man under 35 who likes to kick back and get sucked off. Call now for same day or night call back. ☎ 3647

FETISHES**Calm me, Claim me**

The smelly sweat of your large white feet waiting in sensual heat empassions my African soul to a torment that can only be quenched by your spewing orgasm... HIV-. ☎ 3133

Raunchy Pig Top

Looking for bottoms/ver. sucking, fucking, dildoes, grease, oil, sweat, pits, tits and filthy mind, me, 34, goatee 5'10". ☎ 3134

Daddy 40 says you need new...

Boxers. Because Daddy loves to play in yours and watch you show off. Daddy is looking for WM 18-25, who likes to show off in their boxers. Let's play! ☎ 3135

Dominant master seeks slave

Experienced Master seeks full-service slave-top to train and develop. Master-lots of toys and into everything. ☎ I've make me smile, h/w proportional. Your experience not important--want eager slave. ☎ 3324

Fly on the wall...

Eager voyeur. I love watching sex; solo, twosomes, threesomes, etc. Vanilla to kink, all ages, sizes. GWM 31yo bl/bl 6' 210lbs, sexual intensity and easy-going attitude are key. ☎ 3325

Bathroom buddies-scat action

WM 36, looking for other masculine guys into W/S, raunch, jockstraps, underwear. Public restrooms turn you on too? The sight & sounds of men taking a dump... ☎ 3326

Uncult Sonoma Co

Got foreskin? Love to play and give oral pleasure to all that extra skin. Me: 5'6", 140#, mature 50s also uncult. Age unimportant. Height/weight in proportion. ☎ 3545

Let's bare our soles!

Lifelong attraction to men's barefeet. Crave mutual barefoot kissing licking, smelling, caressing, toe wrestling. Roles, fantasies, J/O E.B. sensual GWM w/toe ring, 5'9", trim, tan, hairy, HIV- loves barefootin! ☎ 3241

Scat pig SJ

Gd/kng lean dk hair moustache, 30s, 5'9" 140#. ISO very hairy hot man w/round hairy butt to come over and feed me. ☎ J Area. ☎ 3242

Fisting tip wanted

Small hands needed for novice fisting bottom. I'm a goodlooking guy, mid 30s, 160lb, 5'10", goatee, versatile. Let's play! ☎ 3243

Daddy 40 says you need new

Boxers because daddy loves to play in yours, and watch you showoff. Daddy is looking for WM 18-25 who like to showoff in thier boxers. Let's play! ☎ 3651

Human urinal needed

Very thirsty mouths sought for recycling. Hard hose can't shut off. Looks age unimportant. Thirst is. ☎ 3244

Swallow a log or push one out..

In the city of fog follow that route. Punks do the former, hinks do the latter. one or the other r, it really doesn't matter! ☎ 3654

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel, looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 3245

Let's play- J/O-watersports-

Italo-American 40+, in-shape, HIV-, hairy chest, seeks cute voyeur HIV-, ethnic types. Let's get hot wet, watch in Levis, shorts! ☎ ons welcome! ☎ 3246

Bondage for Asians

Viking in Atlanta

by Victoria A. Brownworth

The Blue Place by Nicola Griffith; Avon Books, \$23.

This reviewer has long thought much of the best lesbian writing in recent years has derived from genre fiction, most particularly romance and mystery. Lambda Award-winner Nicola Griffith validates that theory with her latest and most ambitious novel, *The Blue Place*.

Well-crafted, evocatively written and swift-paced, *The Blue Place* is for devotees of classic, hard-edged detective tales. While there's romance to be had in this novel, it comes predominantly from Griffith's lushly descriptive prose. As in all serious detective fiction, the book's protagonist carries a heavy weight of alienation and anomie on her shoulders. She is the lone wolf set apart from the pack in the wilderness of modern living; she knows entirely too much about life — and especially death, having killed for the first time at age 18. She knows what some never do, the depths to which human beings can sink.

At 29, six-foot Viking Aud Torvingen has already retired from the Atlanta Police Department (APP). The daughter of a Norwegian mother, a cultural attaché to Britain, and an American businessman father, she grew up in a world of amazing privilege, shuttling between Norway and England until she turned 18, when she decided to move to America to attend university.

Though privilege, brilliance and connections could have netted her a spot at any number of prestigious colleges, Torvingen ends up at Georgia Tech ("they responded first") in Atlanta. There her life begins taking extraordinary turns on her very first night in the seductive and deceptive heat of the American South.

Solo act

The events of that first Hotlanta night set Torvingen on a path few women take. The convergence of past and present conspire to keep her a solo act, distant from the mother she hasn't talked with "properly" since she was 13, and from romantic entanglements beyond searing one-night stands. Her closest friend, Dor-

nan, the owner of a string of cafes, is a bit of a fool, and her break with the APD has left her walking the fine lines of legality on more than one occasion.

The plot of *The Blue Place* is a somewhat complicated one of international drug cartels, art forgeries, corruption, and murder. At the center is a beautiful woman art dealer, Julia Lyons-Bennett, and a dangerous conspiracy that deepens as Torvingen goes from being a suspect in the arson murder of an art appraiser to private detective on the case. The plot is fast-paced, but with a surprising weak spot: the bad guy is obvious early on — so obvious this reader was startled that the incredibly astute Torvingen didn't cotton on until it is far too late.

But this isn't simply a thriller, so the plot flaws don't really spoil what is otherwise an excursion into the more disturbing sides of our psyche: What happens when we explore "the blue place" of the title — the epicenter of our violent selves — and how we keep ourselves from being drawn into the seductive power of our most base responses. How do we keep from killing?

This novel isn't for everyone. It is full of disturbing and incredibly graphic violence many will find shocking, particularly because the author is female, and in recent years women writers have been at the forefront of "humanizing" the bad guys of genre fiction, from vampires to murderers. The last few chapters, while riveting, are especially startling, and the painfully realistic ending will distress those used to the neatly tied packages of John Grisham or even Katherine V. Forrest.

Ultimately *The Blue Place* is, as all good thrillers and all the best literary fiction are, a novel of quests and identity. Griffith's prose is intensely visual, her sense of place — whether on the steaming streets of Atlanta after an April thunderstorm, or on the icy glaciers off the fjords and fjells of Norway — is beautifully wrought. This book has flaws and a few loose ends, but it is as many-layered as the glacial moraine of the Nordic countryside, and its images and ideas will sear the reader's consciousness, much like the brutal heat of downtown Atlanta at midday. ▼

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BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

MASSAGE

fitness training
massage therapy



Evaldo Piloni, C.M.T., C.F.T.

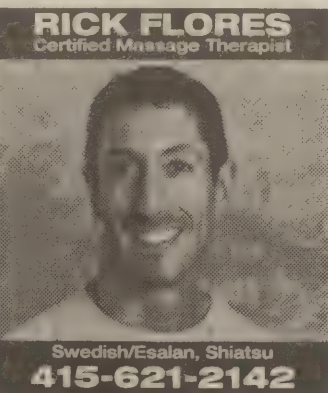
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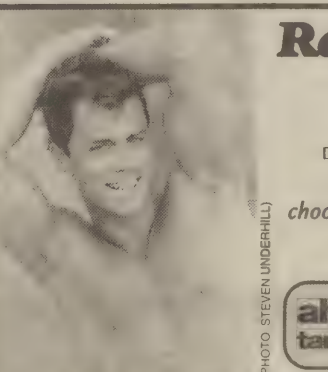
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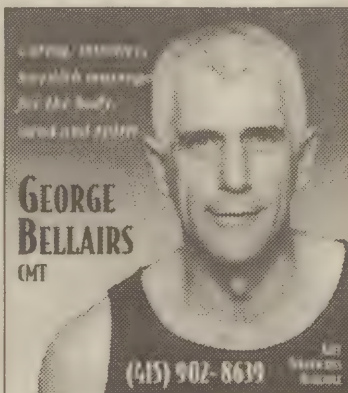
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PERSONALS

MASSAGE

Client's Remark...
"BEST HANDS IN SF"

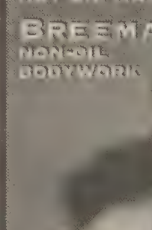


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- SWEDISH
- DEEP TISSUE
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- WARM, CABIN LIKE ENVIRONMENT


647-0644
STEVEN ARTHUR, CMT

SWEDISH
 HOT OIL MASSAGE

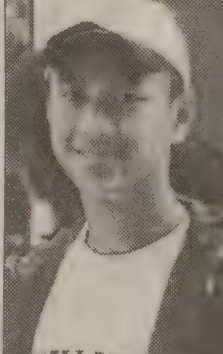


BREEMA
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DIRK 863-0777



Shiatsu • Oil Massage • 160
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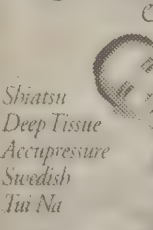
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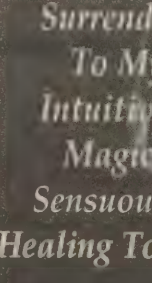
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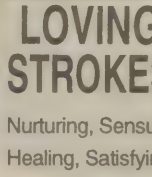
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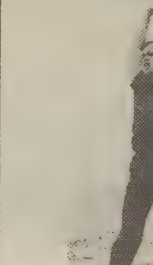


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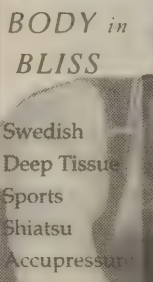
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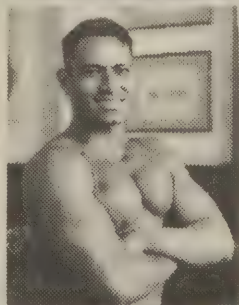
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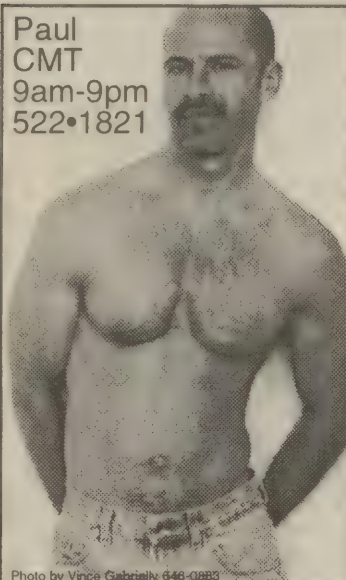
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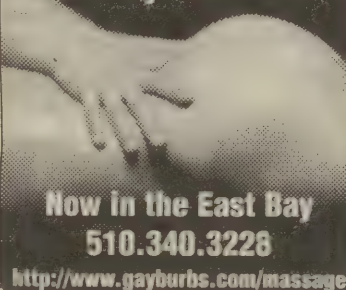
MASSAGE

THERAPEUTIC
MASSAGE

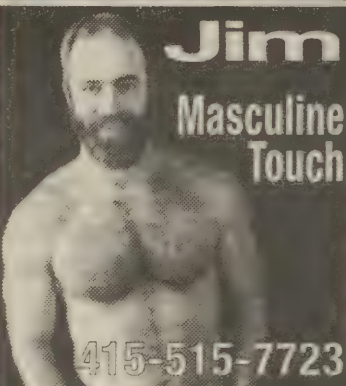
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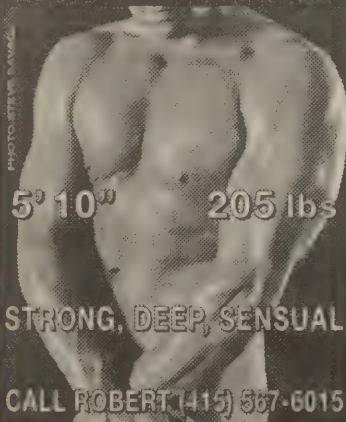


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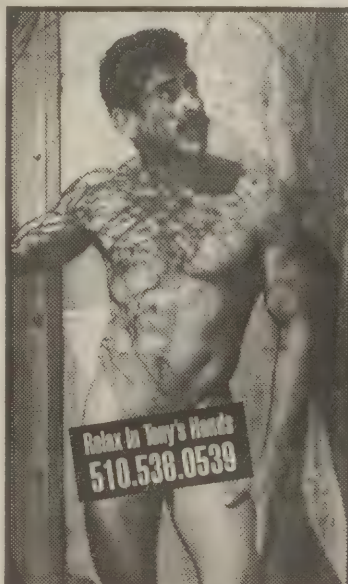
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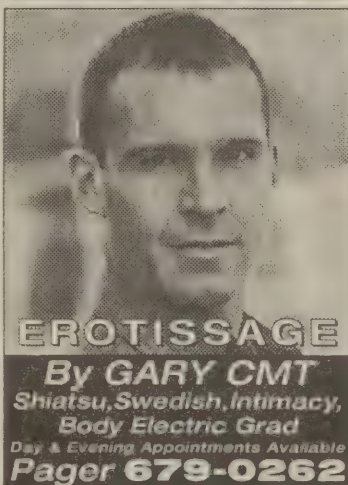
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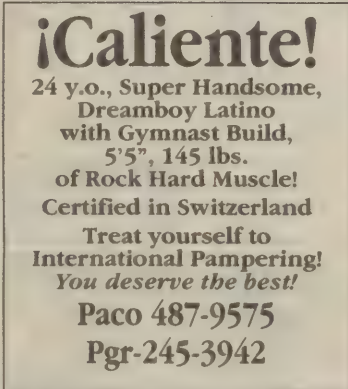
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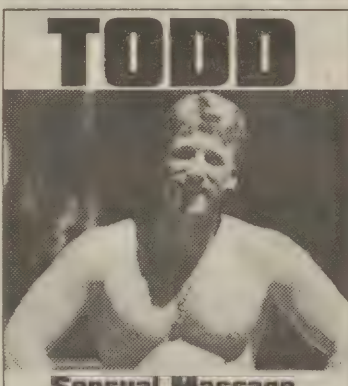
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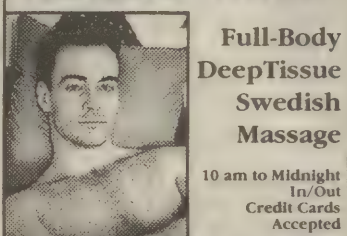
Jeff
20
5'6"
120 lbs.
Photo: Byron

Erotic Massage
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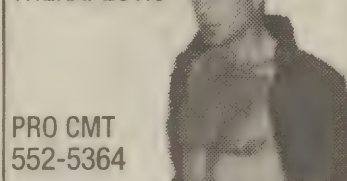
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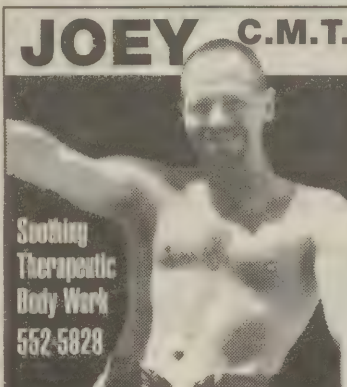
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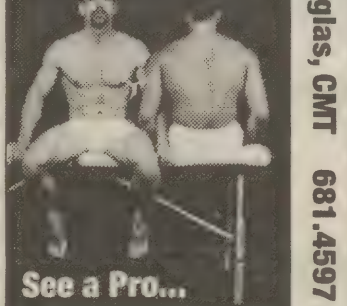


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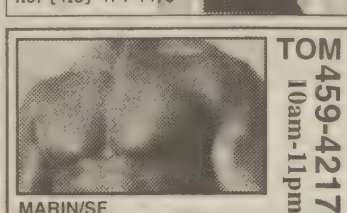
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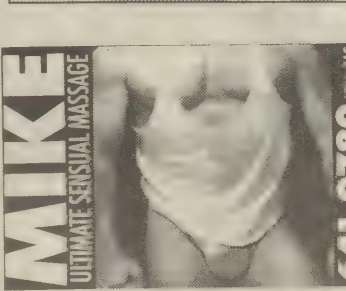


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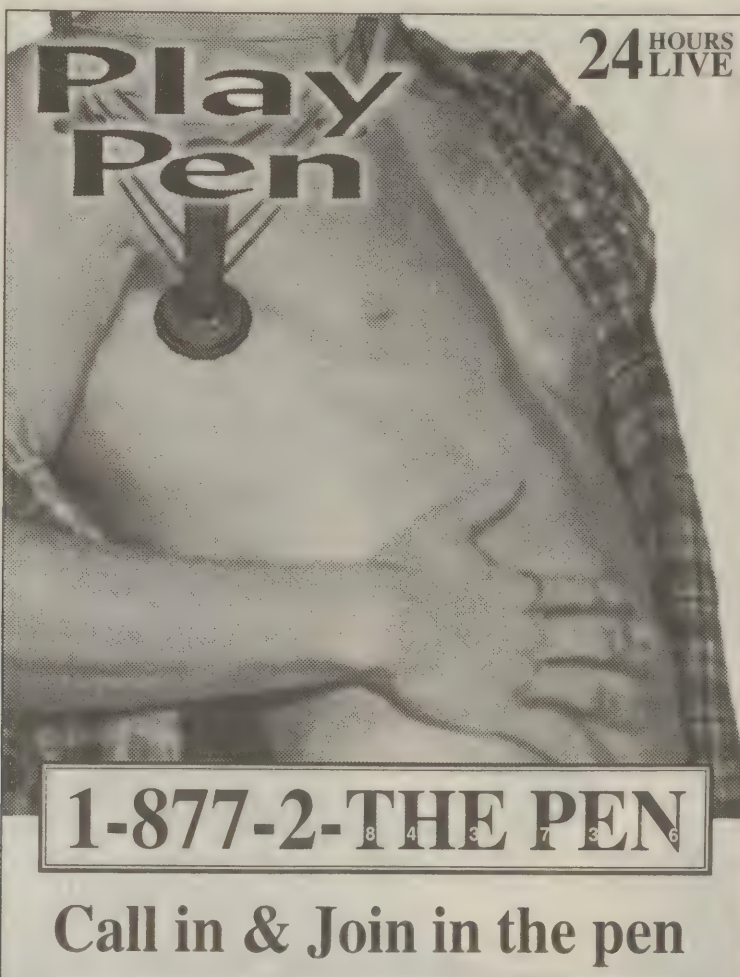
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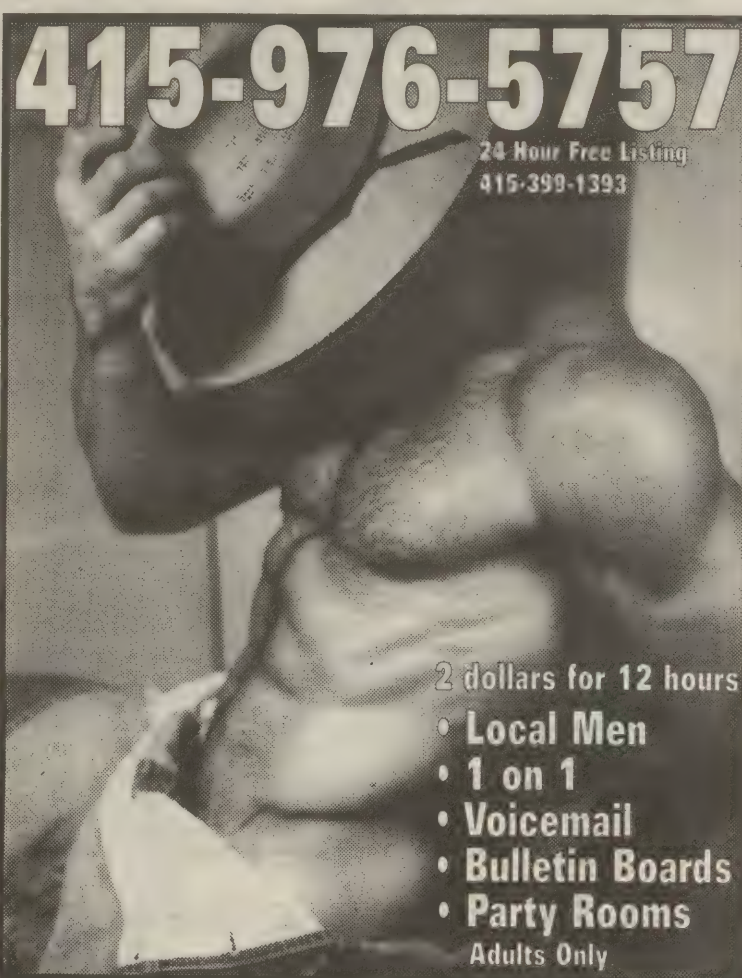
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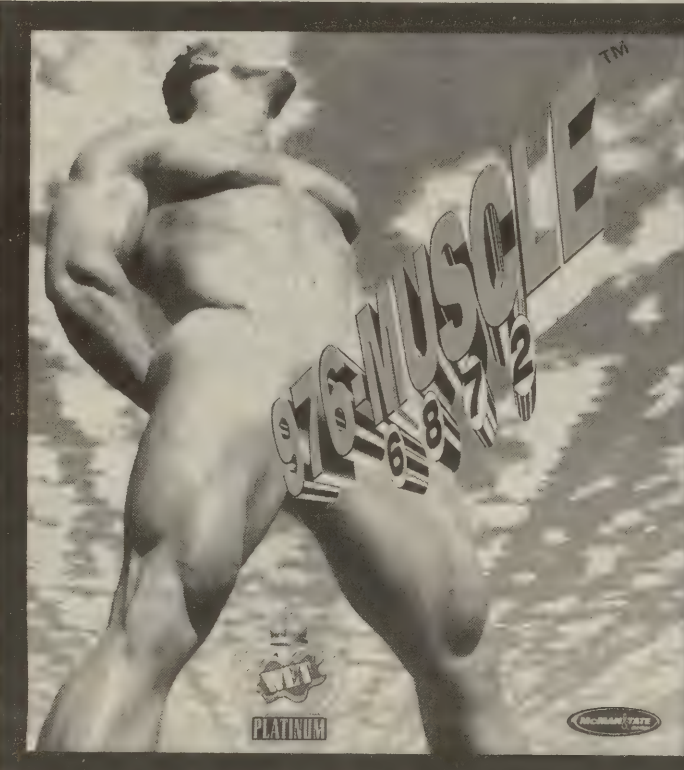
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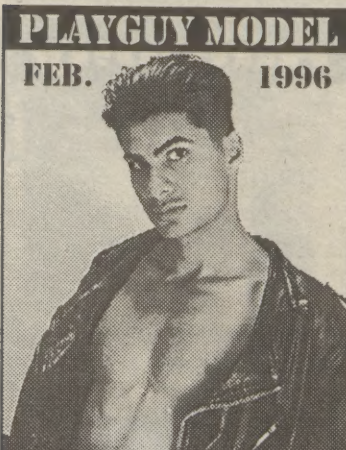
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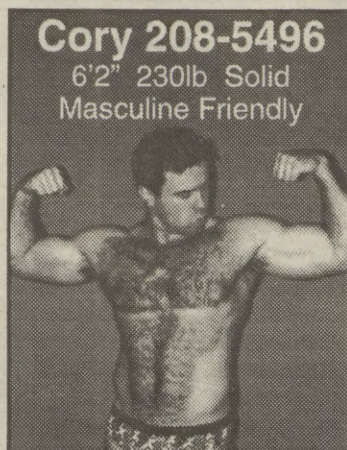
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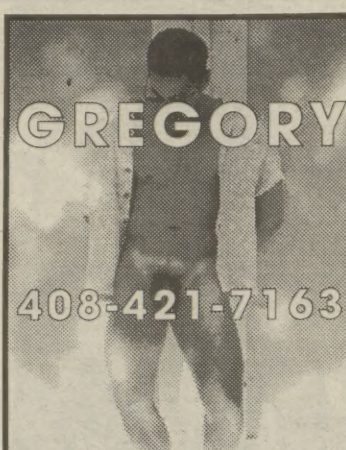
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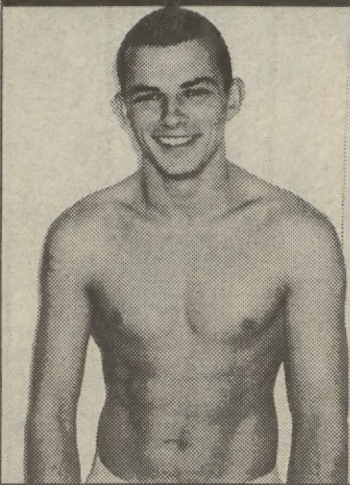
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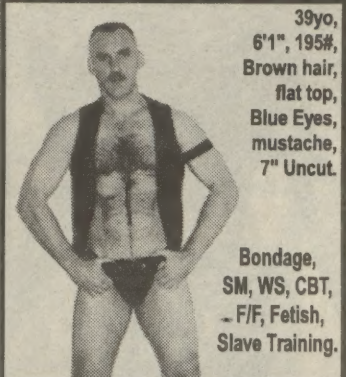


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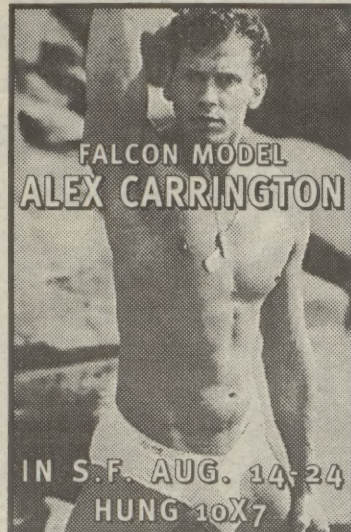
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Dominant Leatherman

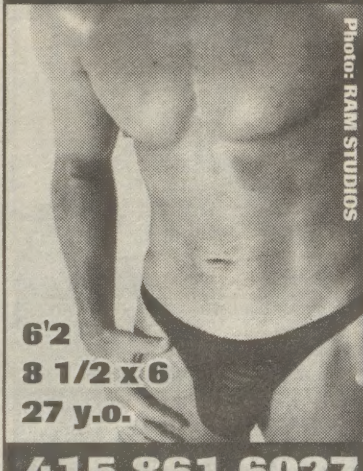


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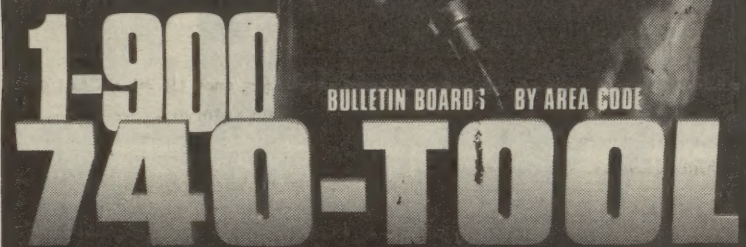
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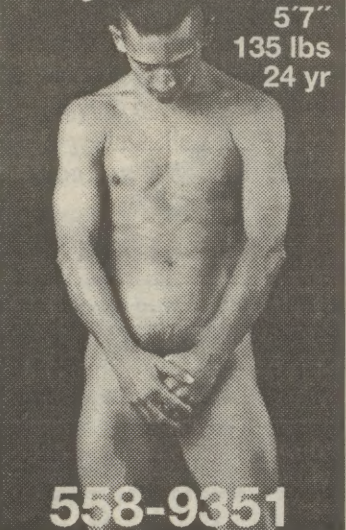
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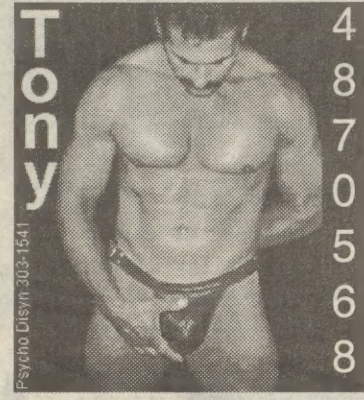
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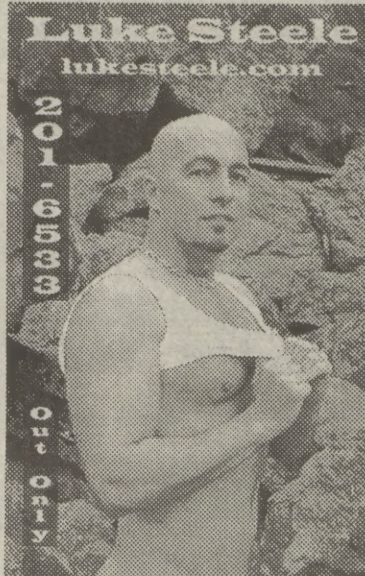
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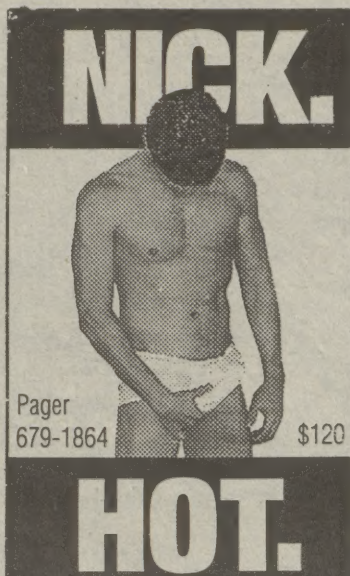
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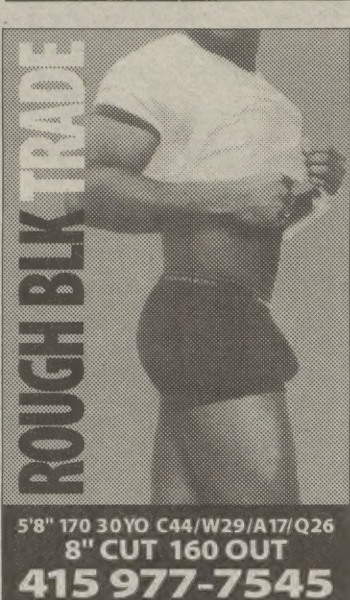
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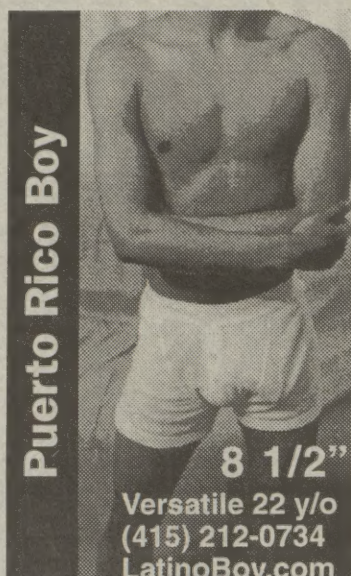
5'6", slim, dark, smooth, hot

20YO ASIAN BOY AND

21YO WHITE BOY

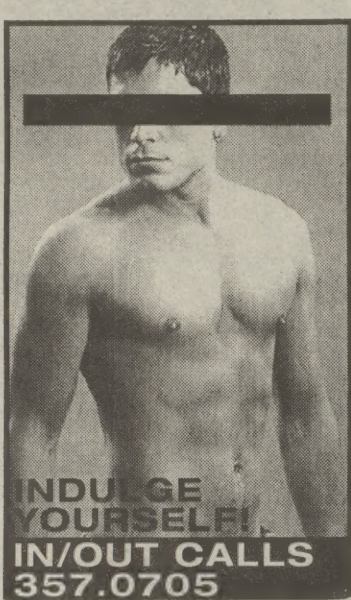
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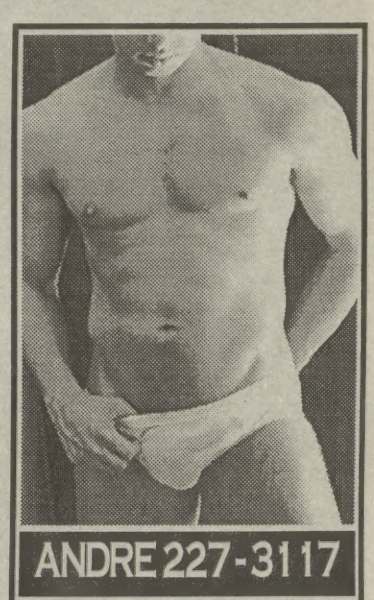
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on Visa and MasterCard.

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Expiration Date

Signature

Name

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Address

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State

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Classification

Amount Enclosed

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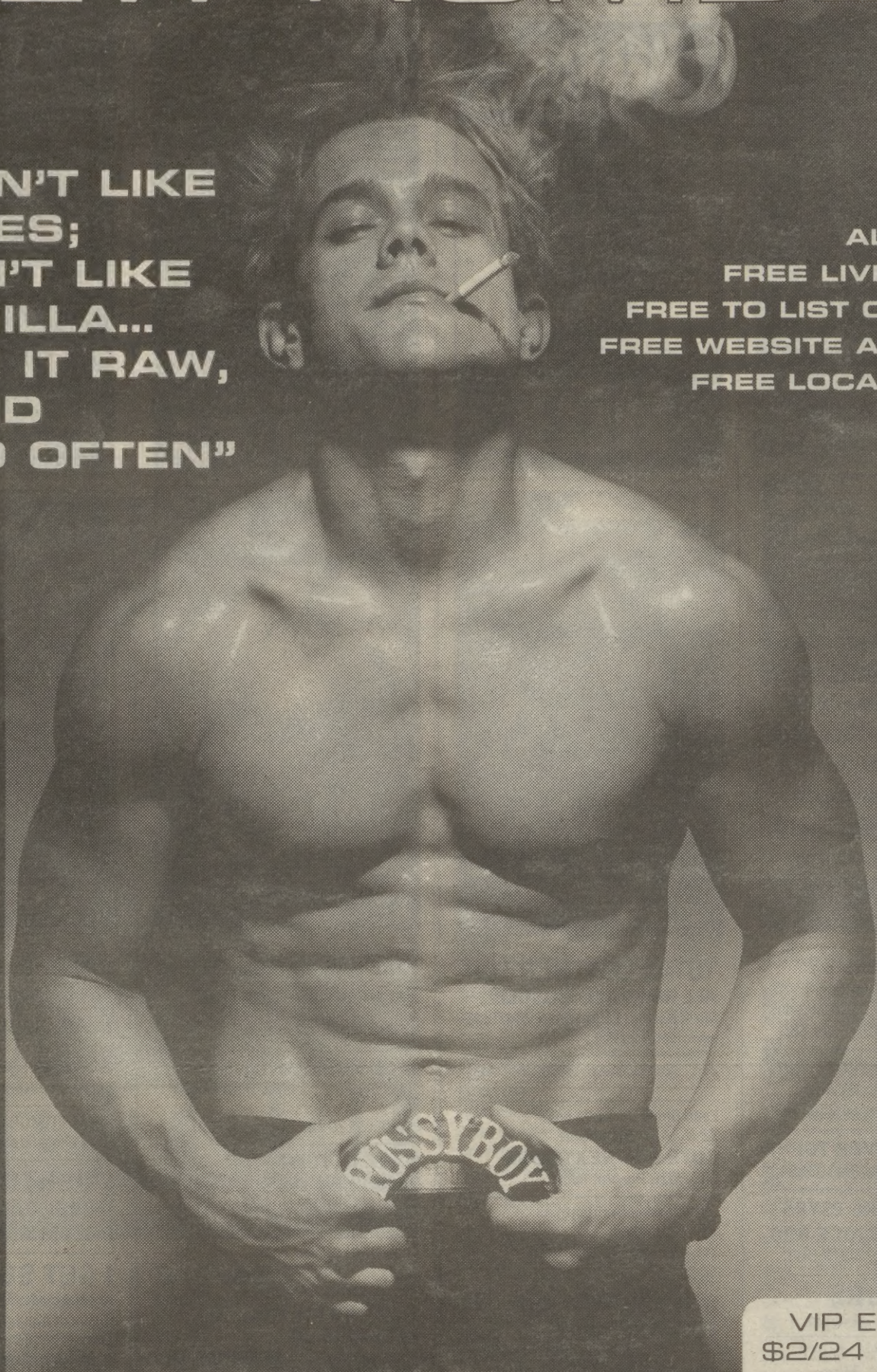
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